

Reader feedback
 "I wish that we don't lose any more Soldiers during the holiday season, and I wish for their safe return," said Giessen's Michael Sean Mellons. See page 2 for more reader feedback.



All for one, one for all
 Baumholder comrades help wounded Soldier return for 2nd Brigade ceremony. See page 13.



Mat attack
 DoDDS wrestlers grapple with victory. See page 27.



Herald Union



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Serving the military communities of the U.S. Army Garrison Hessen

Dec. 21, 2006

NSPS 101

Employees to convert to new pay system in 2007

By Karl Weisel
 U.S. Army Garrison Hessen
 Public Affairs Office

A series of Town Hall Meetings throughout U.S. Army Europe are aimed at answering employees' questions about the new National Security Personnel System. NSPS replaces the current civil service system throughout the Installation Management Command-Europe Region and European Regional Medical Command during the course of 2007 for appropriated fund workers.

James M. Biggs from the USAREUR Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff G-1 Transformation Office and Dan Menzel, a human resources specialist with USAREUR's G-1 Civilian Personnel Division, described the various new features such as pay banding and performance-based compensation to be found in NSPS as compared to the current GS system and the many similarities such as continuation of most of the federal benefits programs during a Town Hall session in Hanau Dec. 5.

"This is about our professional development and our careers," said Col. Herman "Tracy" Williams III, U.S. Army Garrison Hessen commander, in opening remarks at the Town Hall. Under NSPS, all federal employees will be measured under the same standard — "How do I contribute and to what degree did my work contribute to or exceed the accomplishment of the mission."

See NSPS 101 on page 2



Photo by Alexandra Williams

Waiting for Santa Claus

Giessen community members look skyward Dec. 6 during the U.S. Army Garrison Giessen tree lighting ceremony. During the event Santa made his grand entrance from the top of a firetruck ladder. For more stories and photos about holiday celebrations throughout the communities of USAG Hessen see inside this issue.

Coping with combat stress

Team draws resources together to help Soldiers, families

By Karl Weisel
 U.S. Army Garrison Hessen
 Public Affairs Office

When Soldiers go off to war they leave knowing they may face injury or death while families stay behind to cope with the stress and worry caused by their absence. At all phases of a deployment — preparation, deployment, sustainment, redeployment and post deployment — the effects of what they are about to experience or have experienced in combat may impact their emotional and physical well-being — and that of their families as well.

"When Soldiers came back to

Friedberg after the first deployment to Iraq in 2004 we noticed at that time a surge in alcohol abuse," said William

Lennon, clinical director of the Community Counseling Center for U.S. Army Garrison Giessen's Army Substance Abuse Prevention Program.

Many Soldiers came in as self-referrals," said Lennon. "Many would say 'I'm drinking a lot and can't stop.' They said they were having nightmares and were drinking themselves to sleep. They'd wake up in the middle of the night and

then drink again to get back to sleep. ... Many said they had had horrendous experiences."

"We, as senior leaders, have to help our folks get over the stigma of seeking mental health care."

Lennon said that as an experienced social worker with the U.S. Coast Guard and veteran critical incident stress debriefer following the crash of TWA's Flight 800 which killed

all 230 people aboard, he recognized the need for a structured setting where Soldiers could talk about their experiences after returning from Iraq. While

See Combat Stress on page 4

'You Drink, You Drive, You Lose ...'

See page 2

Feedback: What do you wish for this holiday season?



Spc. Katie Flynn
Hanau Health Clinic

"I wish that deployed Soldiers have a safe holiday season."



Sgt. Robert Smith
1st Battalion, 94th Field Artillery Regiment, Baumholder

"I wish for our fellow troops to remain safe and for our families back home to have a good Christmas."



Priscilla Brewster
U.S. Army Garrison Giessen

"I wish for our Soldiers to be safe and for my grandchildren to be happy. Their mother is deployed and I don't want them to worry so much."



Rick Phillips
Argonner Elementary School, Hanau

"My wish is to stay in Germany for another two years so I can finish my master's degree."



Pfc. Ronny Sanchez
1st Battalion, 94th Field Artillery Regiment, Baumholder

"I'd say for now I have everything I want. But, as for the Army as a whole, I wish everyone is safe and has fun and for all the Soldiers to come back safe from leave."

If you're buzzed, don't drive

The holiday season is a time for family and friends to come together, celebrate and be thankful for everything they have. Unfortunately, it is also the time of year when many people make the irresponsible decision to drive after celebrating with alcohol or other substances.

Alcohol is a factor in almost half of all fatal car crashes. To help counteract this problem, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has sponsored Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month every December since 1981. This year the campaign is promoting safe, responsible decisions with two messages: "This holiday season if you catch a buzz, catch a ride" and "You Drink, You Drive, You Lose." These messages go

hand-in hand with the strategies of the campaign — increased education via radio and TV combined with an increased and highly visible law enforcement presence.

3D Month is a prime opportunity for commanders and supervisors to use their influence and educate everyone in the workplace about the risk of drinking and driving, and the importance of having a designated, sober driver. A designated driver is someone who has a blood alcohol level of zero.

If you are a host for a party, here are some things you can do to promote responsible drinking at your function:

- Provide plenty of non-alcoholic beverages.
- Do not pressure guests to drink.

• Serve food to slow the rate of absorption of alcohol.

• Stop serving alcohol at least one hour before the party is over.

• If guests drink too much, call a cab or arrange a ride with a sober driver.

If you would like guidance on sponsoring holiday parties or if you're concerned about the message your organization is sending contact the prevention coordinator in your garrison.

In Wiesbaden call Christine Jones at mil 337-1710, in Hanau, Giessen and Friedberg, Sarah Wilson at mil 322-8911; in Baumholder call Mike Reed at mil 485-1710. (Courtesy of U.S. Army Garrison Hessen Alcohol and Substance Abuse Program)

Letter to the editor

Thanks for coverage of naturalization ceremony

Editor's note: We received the following email from the widow of Sgt. David Jimenez-Almazan after our coverage of the naturalization ceremony where Jimenez was awarded U.S. citizenship post-

humously (Nov. 23 issue).

Thank you so much for writing such a well-written report. Tears of joy came when reading the article, especially the piece about the blueberry pancakes. Again, thank you for

capturing the true essence of my husband and contributing to keeping his memory alive. I am appreciative of people such as you, especially during this time.

Salina Jimenez
Kaiserslautern

NSPS 101

Continued from page 1

"Under NSPS all of us will have our performance directly tied to the success of the mission," said Biggs, explaining that NSPS came about as a reaction to the 9-11 terrorist attacks to make the workforce more responsive to national security concerns.

Biggs explained that many employees under the current GS system will see a slight "bump up" in their pay with the conversion to NSPS.

While AF employees in USAREUR convert in 2007, NAF and wage grade workers

are scheduled to be phased in later, most likely in 2008, he said.

The Department of Defense workforce will be organized into four career groups, Biggs explained, naming them as Science and Engineering, Medical, Investigative and Protective Services, and Standard. Most employees will fall into the Standard career group.

While employees were encouraged to better familiarize themselves with NSPS by taking the "NSPS 101" online training module before attend-



ing the Town Hall Meeting, they can still take the class and should prepare

to attend additional training in the new year. The Civilian Personnel Advisory Center and Human Resources Division will provide classes for employees and supervisors early next year.

For more information about NSPS visit the USAG Hessen home page at www.usaghessen.eur.army.mil and click on the NSPS 101 link on the lower right side of the page. Information is also available online at www.cpms.osd.mil/nsps.

Herald Union masthead

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News flash

Soldiers killed in Iraq

Staff Sgt. Robert L. Love Jr., age 28, of Meridian, Miss., died Dec. 1 in Ar Ramadi, Iraq, of injuries suffered when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle during combat operations. Love was assigned to Giessen's 16th Engineer Battalion. **Spc. Nicholas R. Gibbs**, age 25, of Stokesdale, N.C., died Dec. 6 in Ar Ramadi, Iraq, after coming in contact with enemy forces using small arms fire. Gibbs was assigned to Friedberg's 1st Battalion, 37th Armor Regiment. **Capt. Travis L. Patriquin**, age 32, of Texas, and **Spc. Vincent J. Pomante III**, age 22, of Westerville, Ohio, died Dec. 6 in Ar Ramadi, Iraq, of injuries sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near their vehicle. They were assigned to Giessen's 2nd Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery Regiment. **Pfc. Paul Balint Jr.**, age 22, of Willow Park, Texas, died Dec. 15 in Ar Ramadi, Iraq, of injuries suffered when his unit was attacked. He was a member of Friedberg's 1st Battalion, 37th Armor Regiment. (*DoD News*)

German sales tax to rise

The German Value Added Tax will rise from 16 to 19 percent with the start of the new year. Americans are advised to use the VAT form whenever possible to save money. (*USAG Hessen Public Affairs*)



Still time to give to CFC

This year's Combined Federal Campaign-Overseas has been extended through Dec. 31. Visit www.cfcoverseas.org or see your unit CFC representative for information about donating.

Next issue Jan. 18

This is the last issue of the *Herald Union* for 2006. The next issue will be published Jan. 18, 2007. The staff takes a break during the holidays to catch up on administrative tasks and to spend some quality family time. Deadline for submissions to the Jan. 18 issue is Jan. 5.

New assignments

Brig. Gen. James C. Boozer Sr., U.S. Army Europe's deputy chief of staff, has been named to replace Brig. Gen. Michael A. Ryan as 1st Armored Division's assistant division commander for maneuvers. Ryan is moving on to serve as the deputy chief of staff for operations, Allied Command Europe, Rapid Reaction Corps, with duty in Afghanistan with the International Security Assistance Force. (*DoD News*)

Finance website enhanced

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service's myPay website has several new features. Service members serving in designated combat zones now request withdrawals from their high-interest-rate accounts through the website. "Previously only deposits could be made," said Pat Shine, a DFAS representative. Another improvement is higher quality, printer-friendly copies of all documents on the site. (*American Forces Press Service*)

Special needs education

Alternative curriculum teaches students independence

Editor's Note: This is the last in a series on the challenges confronting some parents regarding their children's education and available services.

Story and photo by Susan Huseman
U.S. Army Garrison Hessen Public Affairs Office

The education of U.S. Army Garrison Hessen preschool to 12th-grade students with moderate to severe special needs is the responsibility of the Department of Defense Dependents Schools in Hanau.

"This complex of schools has been coded so that we can take just about any student," said Sandi Weber, a special education assessor and case study committee chairperson with the Hanau DoDDS schools. Other schools within the garrison are coded to accept mild to moderate special needs students.

The coding is part of the Exceptional Family Member Program. The program helps to ensure Soldiers are assigned to an area where their family members' medical and special education needs can be accommodated. "This is one of the reasons why it is very important for the families to make sure their students are coded correctly in the educational coding system," Weber said.

"The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act has stated very clearly that every student has the right to be provided an appropriate education in their least restrictive environment," said Weber.

"When a student's needs are so significant that their least restrictive environment is not the regular classroom, then we develop an alternative curriculum to help them," she said.

The overall goal for the program, said Weber, is to teach the students to live as independently as possible within the realms of their disabilities.

"Social skills, daily living skills — being able to ride mass transportation — these kinds of things are what's going to be more useful to a student once they leave the academic setting than even achieving a sixth or seventh-grade reading level or being able to do calculus," said Weber.

Academics are included in the program, Weber said. "However, the academics may be more functionally oriented. Being able to memorize math facts may not be nearly as important as being able to use a calculator to figure something out."

"We teach everything that needs to be taught for the children to be independent," said Margaret Murray, moderate to severe special educator for kindergarten through fifth-grade at Argonner Elementary School. "For these kids even walking down the hallway is a learning experience: how to walk in line, how to keep your hands to yourself."

"We do a lot with community-based instruction where we go into the community once or twice a week and the children take the skills we have learned in class and generalize them to a new situation. We go to the dining facility to eat and the skills that they learn in getting their tray here in the cafeteria, they then have to generalize to a new setting, new people — with adults rather than other children around."

"We go swimming once a week and that's the best way to address dressing skills," said Murray. "The students have to get dressed to go swimming. It's been neat to see how well they deal with getting



Teacher Margaret Murray helps Nhasir McKenzie (left), 6, and LaShawn Bosanyi, 6, deliver cookies to Argonner Elementary School teachers. Cookie sales help support the Moderate to Severe Special Needs program.

dressed and getting in the pool.

"It also helps with their communication skills," she said. "One of our students does not have a lot of language right now, but yesterday, when we went swimming he kept saying, 'Slide, slide,' because he wanted to go down the slide. So it is neat to see them communicate and play with each other."

This year Murray's class consists of four students in kindergarten and first grade. "We are doing a lot of pre-readiness," she said. "The children are doing a lot of letters and numbers, sight words, counting, money, telling time, addition. We do a lot of academics and then we take it a step further where the students can use their knowledge and skills out in the community, such as using money."

At the Hanau Middle High School there are four moderate to severe special needs students from 13 to 16 years old. "These students are very sharp," said Larry Sentner, the school's moderate to severe education specialist, "they just have very severe handicaps that prevent them from having self-sustaining life skills."

Depending on the students needs, they may either attend all regular education classes or art, drama and physical education classes.

Sentner's students enjoy moving among the regular student population. "It gives them a sense of independence," he said. "They want to be out and about, have their own locker, go to the cafeteria." By being in a regular classroom they also learn what kind of behavior is appropriate and what kind is inappropriate, he added.

The school day can include a daily living class, speech and physical therapy and community-based instruction. "We go to the commissary, the dining facility, the bowling center and the German swimming pool," said Sentner. Students also have specialized computer programs for math, reading and science.

A cookie-cutter curriculum does not work for special needs students. "You're basing it on individual student needs so you will have things that work really well for some students, or the class you have this year, but it may not be appropriate for the class you will have next year," said Weber. "You take the students where they are and you help them to grow."

Combat stress

Continued from page 1

he found that Soldiers did occasionally discuss their experiences in Iraq, it was usually only with fellow Soldiers "at 3 in the morning in a bar.

"I went to the brigade commander and said these guys need to debrief. They need to have a structured way to talk about what happened," said Lennon.

Lennon said his proposal for a Process Action Team was to invite mental health and pastoral care professionals from throughout the area to join together to work collectively to provide combat stress-related services to Soldiers and family members.

"We began by gathering for lunch just to get to know one another," said Lennon, in describing the origins of the USAG Giessen Combat and Operational Stress Control Team. Under the auspices of the USAG Hessen Health Promotion and Well-Being Council, members of the COSC Team include chaplains, division mental health professionals, ASAP members, ACS representatives, senior leaders and others. The individual COSC Team members provide assessment, counseling and referral services to Soldiers and family members.

"The idea of having teams is not new to the Army," said Lennon. "There have been COSC teams embedded downrange since Operation Iraqi Freedom began."

But having the same resources available before and after Soldiers deploy back in garrison was the missing link, he explained.

U.S. Army Garrison Hessen commander, Col. Herman "Tracy" Williams III said he sees addressing mental health and combat stress issues before they develop into serious problems as a preventive measure. "The Army is trying to address these problems with Battlemind and similar training. ... The goal is to prevent, reduce and manage high-risk Soldiers and their behavior through intervention measures.

"We as senior leaders have to help our folks get over the stigma of seeking mental health care," said Williams, explaining that no rational person would ever hesitate to seek regular physical health check-ups, but caring for mental health still bears a certain stigma.

"I think this is a great effort on the part of the whole community," said Wendy Lakso, USAG Hessen Health Promotion coordinator. "It's a whole-year effort" that continues to address well-being and quality of life issues while ensuring that all of the applicable community resources are involved while eliminating overlap.

After debriefing hundreds of Soldiers returning from duty in Iraq in 2005, Lennon said, "The response was great. Many of the Soldiers went back to their commanders and said, 'I really wish my wife could go through this as well because they are also under a lot of stress.' We see it as a family phenomenon — combat affects the whole family," said Lennon.

Because of that, members of the COSC Team made it a point to get out into the community and to work in the individual battalions. "Rather than stay-

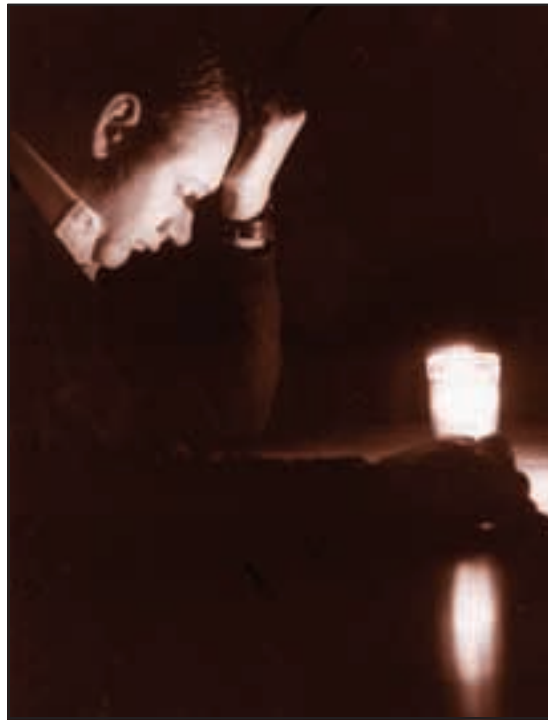


Photo-illustration by the Herald Union

The Combat and Operational Stress Control Team draws many resources together to provide a holistic approach to identifying and treating stress.

ing behind our desks we looked at what we could do as far as outreach. Our link was the Family Readiness Groups," Lennon said. "We determined that the best way to help families was to assign one mental health professional to each battalion available to help them 24/7. We gave out our cell phone numbers. ... We found that for family members it was very comforting for them to know that there was one person they knew by name they could call. They really got to know who we were, rather than if we simply stayed in our offices. ... There's a level of trust.

"We have a wonderful team who are willing to give of themselves. There's a real commitment to these families," he said.

As wounded Soldiers began arriving back in the Friedberg and Giessen communities, the COSC Team members made it a point to meet with each and every

returning Soldier. As a result of this familiarity with mental health support to individuals, Lennon related how an early morning call from a distressed Soldier on Ray Barracks resulted in his quickly coming to the Soldier's aid and arranging for follow-on care at a local hospital.

One complaint sometimes expressed by Soldiers and spouses having difficulties dealing with their experiences is that while the Army provides help, the culture of the military discourages seeking assistance. "There's a real stigma seen in seeking assistance from traditional helping agencies," he said, "whether it's dealing with loneliness, fear or having a husband in combat."

As a way to address that resistance to encouraging seeking help, Lennon said the COSC Team makes an effort to draw in platoon leaders and first sergeants to educate them about potential warning signs and resources available for their Soldiers. "We also try to

educate commanders to make them more understanding of the symptoms of traumatic brain injuries. Hopefully, by having better command education, as we do here, we're better able to identify those needing help.

"Also, I think when the Soldiers come back from Iraq it will be easier because we already know their spouses — we've trained them to be more aware of what to look for when their spouses come back," said Lennon.

"It's all about changing the paradigm of mental health — changing the paradigm of stress," said Williams, explaining that it only makes sense from a command vantage point to encourage everyone to regularly check up on his or her mental health and to seek help when needed.

"If we can look down the road four or five years from now and see a dramatic decrease in suicides, alcoholism and family violence as a result of our efforts to address and treat combat stress than we've been successful," he said. "If we can alleviate the cause of such things as spouse or alcohol abuse than we can reduce the likelihood that the individual will use alcohol to mitigate the problem."

"It's a safety issue. It's a force protection issue and it's a combat readiness issue," added Williams. "And this is a team effort."

Both Lakso and Lennon said they are proud of the fact that the COSC Team concept is being adopted throughout USAG Hessen and has garnered interest throughout the Army. "We are unique," said Lakso. "We're the first place to do this." Similar teams are being set up in the Hanau, Wiesbaden and Baumholder communities, she said.

"These won't be a direct replica, but will be unique to each community because the configuration of each community is different," added Lennon.

Letting everyone in the community know of the tools that are available and encouraging a collaborative approach to identifying, treating and preventing stress from developing into a full-blown crisis are all part of this holistic approach, said Williams. Involving the many helping agencies, European Regional Medical Command and Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine and applying this approach across the garrison is all part of the joint intervention effort.

The intent is that by better reaching out to Soldiers and families and listening to their concerns, problems such as substance abuse and family violence can be prevented. Another goal is to recognize when someone is suffering because of combat stress — both mental and physical — and to provide assistance.

"Unfortunately some of our Soldiers are getting into trouble because of the symptoms of traumatic brain injuries. They may be exhibiting lack of concentration or forgetfulness," said Lennon. Recognizing that they may need help is vitally important.

"Soldiers are remarkable. They don't want to be seen as complainers. But when someone loses one part of their functioning, there is a grief process they must go through."

Having a receptive team ready to identify, listen and refer individuals to get the help they need is crucial, he said.

USAG Hessen blotter

Compiled by the U.S. Army Garrison Hessen
Directorate of Emergency Services

Nov. 25

Baumholder: An NCO was charged with larceny of AAFES property — less than \$100 after the NCO pumped \$30 of fuel into his car and left without paying.

Nov. 26

Baumholder: An NCO was charged with drunken driving after Baumholder German police observed the NCO driving on the wrong side of the road.

Nov. 27

Hanau: A Department of the Army civilian was charged with drunken driving, traffic accident with damage to private property and host nation property, failure to maintain control and civilian misconduct after failing to maintain control of her car and striking a guardrail.

Nov. 28

Wiesbaden: A family member wife was charged with allowing an unlicensed person to operate a vehicle and civilian misconduct after the German police conducted a traffic stop on a car owned by the family member wife and operated by a local national.

Nov. 29

Wiesbaden: A Soldier was charged with rape after the subject allegedly initiated nonconsensual sexual intercourse with a local national female while she was in her bedroom.

Nov. 30

Hanau: A DA civilian was charged with larceny of AAFES property and civilian misconduct after being observed removing two boxes of cold medicine and leaving the store without paying for the items.

Dec. 1

Hanau: A Soldier was charged with traffic accident with damage to government property and improper backing after the subject struck the side of a building with his car.

Dec. 2

Giessen: A retiree was charged with traffic accident with damage to private property and improper backing after the retiree collided with another car.

Dec. 3

Giessen: A Soldier was charged with assault consummated by a battery and drunk/disorderly conduct after the Soldier and a local national became involved in a physical altercation.

Dec. 4

Baumholder: A U.S. civilian was charged with traffic accident with damage to private property and traffic accident/following too close after striking another car.

Dec. 5

Giessen: A family member wife was charged with child abuse, assault on a child under 16 and civilian misconduct after she took her child to the Giessen Uniklink because of an arm injury. The child was admitted to the hospital for observation and treatment.

Dec. 6

Baumholder: A Soldier was charged with possession of marijuana after CID conducted a search of the subject's barracks room and found one gram of marijuana.

Dec. 7

Wiesbaden: An NCO was charged with owning an unregistered car and failure to obey general order after the Military Police observed his car with an expired registration decal.

Dec. 8

Giessen: A Soldier was charged with wrongful disposition of government property after the subject disposed of 50 M16 magazines.

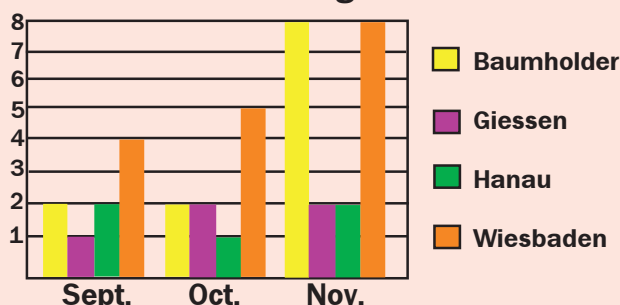
Dec. 9

Hanau: A Soldier was charged with owning an uninsured vehicle and owning an unregistered vehicle after an investigation found the Soldier's car had an expired registration sticker.

Dec. 10

Wiesbaden: A Soldier was charged with operating a USAREUR POV without a USAREUR driver's license and another Soldier was charged with allowing an unlicensed driver to operate his car.

Drunken driving violations



Culinary art competition

Army chefs hone skills at workshop

Story and photos by
Karl Weisel

U.S. Army Garrison Hessen
Public Affairs Office

Cooks from throughout U.S. Army Europe left Hanau Dec. 15 inspired to enhance the quality of culinary fare at dining facilities throughout the theater.

Forty-five Army chefs from as far away as Ansbach and Italy spent two weeks at the John F. Kennedy Dining Facility on Fliegerhorst Kaserne Dec. 4-15 honing their skills during the U.S. Army Garrison Hessen-sponsored annual Culinary Arts Workshop and Competition on behalf of the Installation Management Command-Europe.

"I wanted to come so that I could learn and teach everyone else in my dining facility who couldn't come to spread it around and make our dining facility better," said Spc. Deekeya Byrd, a cook at the Wiesbaden Army Airfield Dining Facility. "This experience was wonderful. I think every cook in the Army should have this experience."

"There are so many different ways to change the appearance of food served in the dining facilities," added Byrd, explaining that treating cooking more like an art form rather than simply "throwing it out there" was a valuable lesson of the workshop.

"What stood out was the hands-on training with the



Spc. Rodriguez Bracey, a cook at the 123rd Main Support Battalion Dining Facility in Dexheim, works on a chocolate-looking sculpture during the workshop Dec. 7.

NCOs. We had a fabulous group," she said.

For Sgt. Omar Duran, a cook at the 1st Battalion, 94th Field Artillery "Deep Still Bistro" Dining Facility on Idar-Oberstein's Strassburg Kaserne, learning about classic meat cuts was a highlight. "The training was very educational — all aspects of food service. ... We can take back what we learned to make the appearance in our dining facilities better."

"We basically gave them about 20-25 classes," said Sgt. 1st Class Eric Jenkins, a trainer and judge, who normally manages the Dragons' Den Dining Facility for the 29th Support Group in USAG Heidelberg. The workshop, which culminated in a competition, featured a wealth of reading materials, live cooking demonstrations, training in knife skills and more.

"I relate it back to when I was a private," said Jenkins. "At that time I was thinking about getting out of the Army."

Then I was sent to a culinary workshop and I realized there was another side to cooking — what I call the glamour side of cooking. It influenced me to change my mind about leaving the service, and 23 years later I'm still here.

"We've got some real talent here," added Jenkins, as he made his way through the competition entries. We want to show Soldiers that there is another side to cooking. Hopefully they'll take this back to their dining facilities and then train their fellow cooks."

Jenkins said he could see the growth during the two weeks. "From the first day you'd see the shock and awe of 'Oh my God, I'll never be able to do that,' to what you see on the competition tables now."

"I'm taking away everything from this workshop," said Pfc. Kristian Clay, a Wiesbaden cook, "cuts, how to store and conserve food — how to make stuff I've never made before. I'd give the training a 10 on a scale of one to 10."

Manuel Gomes, USAG Hessen food program manager, said a team of the 12 best Army chefs from the workshop and competition will be selected on Dec. 22 to represent IMCOM-Europe at the Army-wide workshop and competition in Fort Lee, Va., to be held next February or March.

A total of 11 gold medals, 17 silvers and 30 bronzes were awarded Dec. 15 for items on display at the Hanau competition. The 29th Support Group's Pfc. Leia Heeter earned best in show honors for her confectionary centerpiece.



Sgt. 1st Class Eric Jenkins (left) and Master Sgt. Benedict D. Tesoro judge entries during the competition Dec. 15.

Making the grade in Giessen

By Susan Huseman
U.S. Army Garrison Hessen
Public Affairs Office

It's never over until the fat lady sings, and as far as Giessen Elementary School is concerned, the fat lady has been bound, gagged and stuffed in a closet.

Even though the school is scheduled to close at the end of the school year, the faculty and staff are focused on promoting student success, said Barbara Mueller, principal. "We have many programs to ensure students are reaching their potential such

as Reading Recovery, Read 180, the Student Success Team and math coaching."

The Student Success Team is an intervention program that helps students become more successful at school. "Its purpose is to individualize education for children," said Mueller. The team consists of the principal, counselor, psychologist, nurse, learning impaired teacher, reading specialist, gifted education teacher, behavior management specialist and a classroom teacher.

The SST develops and recommends strategies to help students with academics or behavior in the classroom. "We start off with vision and hearing exams," said Tricia Sutton, school nurse, "just to make sure the student can see and hear the teacher. Once a student has been medically screened then we can begin classroom interventions such as reading or math help."

Students are referred by teachers, parents or themselves, Mueller said. "We've had 15 student cases to date this year," said Jason Greve, school counselor.

Students can be referred for a variety of reasons. "We had one student come to SST for social and behavioral difficulties in the classroom," Greve said. "The team figured out the student was having anxiety issues. We looked for the triggers, which helped me define how to help him. We placed him in an anxiety management group with students who share similar behaviors. We worked on strategies to reduce the anxiety.

"I've seen significant growth in this student," said Greve. "The student's classroom performance has improved. Without SST, he said, this student would not have received the help he needed in such a focused and timely manner.

Even model students can benefit from SST. "We had an extremely bright student who needed more of a challenge," said Amanda Thompson, learning impaired specialist. "The student was enrolled in gifted ed, excelled in reading and the written language. We suggested she move up a grade level for language arts class. She's been very successful."

"We have many in-school resources to support



Photo by Barbara Mueller

Joy Cox, Giessen Elementary School Math Matters coach, works with third-graders (from left) Lori Cramer, Aaron Scott, Elizabeth Blann and D'Andre Davis.

the recommended strategies ... reading specialist, math coach, special ed, counseling, nurse, technologist, psychologist," said Mueller.

Teamwork is important to a student's success, and this includes parental involvement. "Parents must be informed before the child's case is sent to SST," said Greve. "And basic parental involvement is needed," said Thompson, "such as following up on homework, keeping teachers informed of events at home and making sure the child is at school on time."

Besides the SST the school is also preparing its students for educational success in math. Joy Cox, Math Matters coach, joined the faculty this year and works with third and fourth-graders, and co-teaches fifth graders.

"We're the only school within the Heidelberg district with a full-time math coach," said Mueller. "This is how we intend to improve students' understanding of math and, subsequently, our TerraNova scores."

"We are looking to improve in three areas — problem solving and reasoning, communication and patterns, functions and algebra," said Cox. "We do this through practicing math problem solving.

Students keep a math journal in which they explain their thinking and how they solved the problem. "They receive a different problem every one or two days and they have to read for facts, come up with a plan, solve the problem and then explain their thinking. This is so crucial in today's world. By explaining, they are letting the teacher know they truly understand," said Cox.

"We cover all strands of math — from number sense to defining patterns," said Cox. "We even cover some algebra."

Despite the unknown future, "Our teachers are really giving it their all," said Mueller. "They are good teachers to begin with, but they are really going the extra mile. This is a very cohesive group of people.

"When we came back to work in August we met and made a pact that we would not leave emotionally before we left physically," she said.

Not until the fat lady sings.

School bits

Take the survey

Parents of students in grades four to 12 are invited to take part in the Department of Defense Education Activity Customer Satisfaction Survey through Feb. 28. Log on to www.dodea.edu and click on the 2006 customer satisfaction survey link.

Jazz kudos

Congratulations to U.S. Army Garrison Hessen Department of Defense Dependents Schools-Europe Jazz Seminar 2007 participants. Zachary Splittstoesser of Baumholder Middle High School, Kellis Nobles of Gen. H.H. Arnold High School in Wiesbaden and Giessen Middle High School's Lee Hillmon and David Peplinski were named to the Big Band Jazz Ensemble. Jessica Smith of Gen. H.H. Arnold was named to the Jazz Vocal Ensemble. More than 110 students from 20 DoDDS schools auditioned for 34 positions. They will attend the seminar in Naples, Italy, Jan. 16-21. (DoDDS-E new release)

After-school tutors needed

Baumholder Middle High School after-school tutoring program seeks volunteer tutors in all subjects for after school tutoring from 3-4 p.m. Email heidi.kretz@eu.dodea.edu for details.

Books for all at Neubrücke

Neubrücke Elementary School Parent Teacher Association donated \$1,129 in books to the school library and teacher's classrooms. The library received 113 new books. The PTA and parents also provided all books on the teachers' classroom wish list.

Hanau Middle High School calendar

The School Advisory Committee meets Jan. 17 at 3:15 p.m. The National Honor Society induction ceremony will be held Jan. 17 at 6 p.m. Feb. 5 is a staff development day and there will be no school for students.

Commissary scholarships

Students may now apply for \$1,500 Defense Commissary Agency scholarships for 2007. Applications for the Scholarships for Military Program can be downloaded at www.commissaries.com; www.militaryscholar.org or www.dodea.edu. The program is open to children of military active duty, retired, Guard and Reserve members. Deadline to apply is Feb. 21.

School holidays

The winter holiday break runs through Jan. 7 with school resuming Jan. 8. Other school holidays include Jan. 15, Martin Luther King Jr. Day and Feb. 19, Presidents Day. Spring recess is April 9-15.

Teacher work days

Jan. 26 and April 6 are teacher work days. There will be no school for students.

Continuous School Progress

Wetzel Elementary School holds Continuous School Progress meetings on the third Tuesday of every month at 2:20 p.m. in the school Information Center. Parents are welcome.



Maj. Gen. Fred. D. Robinson Jr., 1st Armored Division commander, and Diana Ohman, Department of Defense Dependents Schools-Europe director, read "Mercedes and the Chocolate Pilot" to Wiesbaden community children and parents Dec. 3 at Wiesbaden Hangar 1034.

Airlift story brought to life

Story and photo by
Spc. Alfredo Jimenez Jr.
1st Armored Division Public Affairs Office

Sixty years may seem like a long time ago to a child. But heroic events are worth remembering.

When Scott Kasunic and his wife heard about a book covering the Berlin Airlift being read at the airfield, they made sure their two daughters would not miss the opportunity.

They were not alone as a capacity crowd filled Hangar 1034 at Wiesbaden Army Airfield to listen to one of the great stories of the post-World War II era.

Maj. Gen. Fred D. Robinson Jr., 1st Armored Division commander, and Diana Ohman, director of Department of Defense Dependents Schools-Europe, sat in front of the crowded hangar and read "Mercedes and the Chocolate Pilot," which told the true story of a 7-year-old girl who lived in West Berlin during the airlift and of the American who came to be known as the Chocolate Pilot.

"As soon as my wife learned about this event, we

were ecstatic and eager to bring our girls," Kasunic said. "I am familiar with the Berlin Airlift and I am glad (General) Robinson was able to read it to my girls."

His daughters, Elise, 9, and Christina, 5, seemed intrigued by the story about the humanitarian rescue mission that used British and American airplanes and pilots to fly needed supplies.

As one of the American pilots participating in the airlift mission, Lt. Gail S. Halvorsen, the Chocolate Pilot, helped not only to provide nourishment to the children but also give them hope for a better tomorrow.

"We are here to celebrate that great moment of 1948," said Ohman. "This story is worth remembering and we wanted to tell the children and help bring the family together."

Several families sprawled throughout the hangar as they not only were treated to the magical story, but were shown slide shows about present day heroes in the area serving in Afghanistan and Iraq.

"It was a community effort to bring this event together," said Peter Witmer, school liaison officer

and "Tell Me A Story" committee member. "We are happy to be part of this event because we truly believe that a family that reads together, stays together."

After the book was read and the slide shows ended, the children were separated into groups, where they talked about the story and photos. They were all given courtesy copies of the book and treated with refreshments.

"We are trying to coordinate other Tell me a Story events, but we needed to know how well this one was received," Ohman said. "I am glad many families brought their children because we really wanted to do something for them."

With families such as the Kasunics bringing their children to be part of something memorable, it would be safe to say that the Tell Me A Story committee, comprised of Witmer, Rebecca Thompson, Erin Finn, Lisa Holstein, Danna Klingel and Elizabeth Stevenson, are already planning their next event.

"I didn't expect a big crowd to be here," Kasunic said. "But my daughters had a great time and I can't wait for the next one."

Facilities to close for holidays

Half-day schedule

The Wiesbaden Finance Office will close daily at 1 p.m. until Jan. 2.

Dec. 22

Due to a works council agreement, the following facilities will close at noon Dec. 22: Directorate of Public Works engineering and housing sections, Home Improvement Stores, Installation Property Book Office, Transportation Motor Pool, Driver's Testing and Vehicle Reg-

istration and the Installation Transportation Office.

Dec. 24

Dexheim and McCully Commissaries will be closed. Wiesbaden Commissary closes at 4 p.m.

Dec. 25-26

All community commissaries, libraries, outdoor recreation centers, auto skills centers, mailrooms, Andrews Federal Credit Union, ACS, APO, USO, Römer Arts Center and the Central

Issue Facility will be closed Dec. 25. DPW, TMP, ITO, IPBO, Driver's Testing and Vehicle Registration, Community Banks, health and dental clinics, Home Improvement Stores and Dexheim Youth Services will be closed Dec. 25-26.

Dec. 29

Dexheim Health Clinic will be closed.

Dec. 30

Dexheim Youth Services will be closed.

Dec. 31

Dexheim and McCully commissar-

ies will be closed. Wiesbaden Commissary closes at 7 p.m.

Jan. 1

CMRs, APO, DPW, ITO, IPBO, Driver's Testing and Vehicle Registration, TMP, USO, all community outdoor recreation centers, libraries, auto skills centers, Andrews Federal Credit Union, Community Banks, health and dental clinics, Home Improvement Stores, ACS, Römer Arts Center, Central Issue Facility and commissaries will be closed.

For a complete listing go to www.wiesbaden.army.mil.



Happy Holidays

Holiday tree lightings kept children and families busy throughout the Wiesbaden and Dexheim communities earlier this month. Following the lighting of the tree, children had a chance to keep warm indoors, visit with Santa, make Christmas ornaments and cards and listen to music provided by the 1st Armored Division Band.

Photos by Cassandra Kardeke

Keep homes safe during holidays

People should enjoy the Christmas holidays, with its decorations and celebrations, but they should not be complacent when it comes to safety, said officials. Check to make sure you're following the below tips for a safe and happy holiday.

Christmas trees

If you have a live tree, keep it moist and properly watered to prevent drying. Keep in mind live Christmas trees can't be kept longer than 15 days in a government facility. If you use an artificial tree, ensure that it is fire-retardant (this does not mean fireproof). Make sure the tree is well-secured in a sturdy stand and place it away from high traffic areas, doorways, heating vents, radiators, stoves, fireplaces and burning candles.

Lights, extension cords

When decorating, use lights that have been certified by a recognized organization such as CSA, ULC or cUL. Use the proper lighting for the purpose — never use indoor-only lights outdoors. Check all light bulbs before you put them up and replace broken or burned-out bulbs with those recommended by the manufacturer. Check the light strings and extension cords you use, discarding any that are frayed or have exposed wires, loose connections or broken light sockets. Never cover electrical cords or wiring with rugs or other materials. Do not overload electrical outlets. Use more than one outlet if the

wattage of your lights is more than the outlet can handle. And don't forget to turn off all holiday lights before you go to bed or leave your home.

Candles

Candles are not allowed in government housing, but if you live on the economy remember to extinguish all candles when leaving the room or going to sleep. Keep candles away from items that can catch fire, such as clothing, books and curtains. Use candle holders that are sturdy, won't tip over easily, are made from a material that cannot burn and are large enough to collect dripping wax. Keep candles and all open flames away from flammable liquids.

Travel

If you're taking a trip keep your home safe for your return. Lt. Col. Carol A. McKinney, chief of law enforcement operations at the USAREUR Office of the Provost Marshal suggests the following tips:

- ★ Leave shades, blinds and curtains in normal positions.
- ★ Don't let mail and flyers pile up in your mailbox. Have a neighbor pick them up.
- ★ You should create the illusion you're at home by using trusted neighbors or timers that will turn lights on and off in different areas of your house throughout the evening. Lights burning 24 hours a day signal an empty house. (Courtesy of the U.S. Army Garrison Hessen Safety Office)



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

Don't let the excitement of the holiday season make you complacent when it comes to keeping your family and home safe.

Community news notes

High-speed Internet service available

TKS Cable now offers high-speed Internet service at Wiesbaden Army Airfield. New subscribers can receive a free modem and 15 days free Internet access through Dec. 31. Contact the TKS Shop at Hainerberg Shopping Center or call their hotline at civ (0180) 485 7762. More information can also be found at www.tksable.com.

Christmas dinner

Don't worry about the cooking for this year's Christmas dinner. Come to Wiesbaden Dining Facility. Turkey, ham, Cornish hens, fish, stuffing and plenty of salads, sides and desserts will be served from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Wiesbaden Army Airfield Dining Facility Christmas Day. Cost is \$5.90 per person (Soldiers E-5 and above, civilians and family members) and \$5 per person for Soldiers and their family members, E-4 and below.

Saving energy

To conserve energy, garrison officials request housing residents to turn off holiday lighting between midnight and 3 p.m.

Discipline class

The Family Advocacy Program offers a new class, "A Guide to Discipline." Learn how discipline and parenting go hand-in-hand and how to empower and guide children who will one day be adults with families of their own. Call mil 335-5254 or civ (0611) 408-0254 for more information and to sign up for the class.

Salsa lessons

The Wiesbaden Fitness Center now offers Salsa lessons. Have a great time while learning the hottest Latin moves. Call mil 337-5541 or civ (0611) 705-5541 for more information.

Respite help needed

Army Community Service seeks emergency placement

care and respite care providers for the Wiesbaden and Dexheim communities. Help make a difference in a child's life. Call mil 335-5254/5234 or civ (0611) 408-0254/0234 for more information.

Outdoor Rec closure

The Wiesbaden and Dexheim Outdoor Recreation and Value Added Tax offices will be closed for training Jan. 17. Normal hours will resume Jan. 18.

New 3rd COSCOM senior NCO

The 3rd Corps Support Command welcomed Command Sgt. Maj. Willie C. Tennant Sr. in an assumption of responsibility ceremony on Wiesbaden Army Airfield Nov. 29. Tennant last served with the 7th Corps Support Group in Bamberg.



Tennant

Dental assistant class

Learn how to become a certified dental assistant through the Wiesbaden American Red Cross. Applications are now being accepted for their next Dental Assistant Program which will begin early next year. Applications can be picked up at the Red Cross office in Building 1023E, Room 313. For more information call mil 337-1760 or civ (0611) 705-1760.

Members wanted

The Dexheim Community Club is looking for new members. Send email to valhalla430@yahoo.com for application forms. There are many events planned for the coming year. The Dexheim Community Club is a non-profit organization promoting events for the Dexheim community.

Mail room hours

The Wiesbaden Army Post Office and mailrooms will have extended hours for the holiday mail rush through Jan. 8. The

APO at Wiesbaden Army Airfield will be open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday to Wednesday and Friday; 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. every Saturday. At McCully Barracks the APO is open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Tuesday and Thursday and in Dexheim from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Community mail rooms 404, 406 and 467 will be open every Saturday for package pickup from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. through Jan. 6.

Scholarship deadline

Applications for the Wiesbaden Community Spouses Club Scholarship Program will be accepted through March 1, 2007 for seniors at the Wiesbaden high school and spouses and family members continuing their education. Applications can be picked up at the Wiesbaden and Dexheim Education Centers, Wiesbaden and Dexheim community libraries, Army Community Service and at the high school.

Jobs available

The Victory Point Bar at Wiesbaden Army Airfield has bartender positions available. Contact the Wiesbaden NAF Civilian Personnel Office at mil 337-5272 or civ (0611) 705-5272 or send email to HanauNaf@cpoceur.army.mil.

Dexheim Child and Youth Services is currently hiring Child and Youth Program assistants. For more information call mil 337-5272 or civ (0611) 705-5272.

Half-day schedule

The Wiesbaden Finance Office will operate on a half-

day schedule through Jan. 2. During this time the office will close at 1 p.m. daily; however, in and out-processing will remain open until 4:30 p.m. daily.

Scout news

Boy Scout Troop 107 meets every Monday from 7-8:30 p.m. at the Aukamm Elementary School. Boys can enjoy a variety of traditional Scouting opportunities such as summer and weekend camps, hikes, adventures and more. Call mil 337-6191 or civ (06135) 5815 for more information.

Christian playgroup

Little Lambs is a chapel-sponsored, Christian interfaith playgroup designed as an interactive playtime for the parent and child. Little Lambs meet on Tuesdays from 10-11:30 a.m. at the Hainerberg Chapel Annex. For more information call civ (06128) 480-944 or (0611) 724-3858.

Stress reduction class

Wiesbaden Fitness Center offers Stress Reduction classes every Friday from 11:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The class offers meditation, guided relaxation and breathing techniques to help create a healthier lifestyle. For more information call mil 337-5541 or civ (0611) 705-5541.

Scholarship application workshops

Child and Youth Services offers scholarship application assistance from 7-8:30 p.m. Jan. 8, 22 and Feb. 5, 19. Call mil 335-5592 or civ (0611) 408-0592 for more information.

Video messenger

U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden community libraries offer video messaging for Soldiers preparing to deploy. Before deployment stop by the library and record yourself reading a story. Equipment and books are available for free. Your child can check out the same book while you are gone and follow along as you read. The video messenger can also be used to record birthday, anniversary or holiday messages. Call mil 337-67-6 or civ (0611) 705-6706 for more information.

VFW members wanted

Wiesbaden's Veterans of Foreign Wars holds monthly meetings the second Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Community Activity Center at Wiesbaden Army Airfield. All VFW members and potential members are welcome. Call civ (0611) 380-8209 for more information.



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Vaccine helps keep the flu away

Cold and flu season is here and although the best protection is to get a vaccination from your military treatment facility it is also advisable to remember the "clean hands" rule.

Colds and flu are spread from person to person by coughing and/or touching something that has the virus on it, such as door handles, elevator buttons, telephones and keyboards. This is why it is so important for everyone,

children included, to cover a cough or sneeze with a tissue or to cough into

your shoulder, not your hand. Coughing and sneezing into hands spreads the infection. So remember proper "cough

etiquette" and keep tissues and hand sanitizers handy. Use the sanitizer frequently, especially whenever out in public such as shopping, going to the commissary and even at child care facilities. Get into the habit of using a hand sanitizer often.

Colds and flu have similar symptoms except that the flu feels much worse and may include a dry cough with body aches and extreme tiredness.

With a cold, expect to have a

runny nose, sneezing and possibly a productive cough. Both may include a fever for a day or so but

fever from the flu is generally higher. Expect to feel under the weather for several days or up to a week. Symptoms will

gradually improve but it may take several weeks to get back to 100 percent.

With both colds and flu be sure to get plenty of rest. Drink lots of water and eat food that is easy to prepare and digest. It is important to put good food into your body to help fight the virus. Take Tylenol or Ibuprofen for the aches and pains and sore throat; cough medicine for any cough and throat lozenges for any throat symptoms.

Over the counter medications are available at your local military pharmacy. It is important to remember that colds and flu are viral infections and antibiotics are prescribed for bacterial infections.

If you still feel under the weather after two weeks, call your health clinic and see your primary care provider. (Courtesy of the Wiesbaden Army Airfield Health Clinic)

TOP 3 reasons to get your flu vaccine

- 1 Prevents influenza-related death.**
Each year over 36,000 people in the U.S. die because of the flu—most are 65 or older. More people die from flu than from any other vaccine-preventable disease.
- 2 Prevents severe illness.**
In the U.S., influenza puts about 200,000 people in the hospital each year. Children younger than 2 years old are as likely to be hospitalized as adults who are 65 or older.
- 3 Protects other people.**
You should get vaccinated if you live with or care for others who are at high risk of complications from the flu. Getting a flu vaccination yourself can help protect your family members, including seniors and young children.

CDC
For more information, ask your healthcare provider or call 1-800-232-6263. Website: www.cdc.gov/flu

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Decades of service honored Employees recognized

By Cassandra Kardeke
U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden
Public Affairs Office

The U.S. military in Wiesbaden is mainly Army now; but many U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden employees remember a time when the Air Force was in charge. Two of those employees were recently recognized for their long-time service.

"I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart. Some of you have

worked for the Army for 35 years and that is 15 years more than I have in the service now," said Lt. Col. Timothy Wulff, garrison commander, during a Length of Service ceremony held at the Wiesbaden Army Airfield Chapel Dec. 7.

Twenty-five employees were recognized. Two were from the Directorate of Public Works — Estrabon Serrano Guillermo, with 35 years and Heinz Schilling with 40 years of service. Both started their work for the Air Force almost four decades ago.

"That is a very long time that you have dedicated, and we want to honor and thank you for that," Wulff said.

Forty years is a long time, especially for someone without a driver's license.

"He [Schilling] doesn't have a car license, so through all the wind and weather he comes here on his motor scooter — even if ice is dripping from his chin," said John Howe, DPW Building and Grounds director and supervisor of both Schilling and Guillermo.

During the ceremony Guillermo reflected on both his

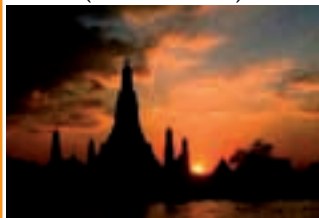
worst and best memories over the years. And although saving someone's life could be

construed as a good thing, Guillermo commented on how it was his worst memory to have found a Soldier who had been electrocuted more than 10 years ago. Thanks to Guillermo's discovery, the Soldier was transported to a hospital by ambulance and survived.

"My best memory was the big celebration when the Soldiers came home after the first deployment to Iraq. I brought my whole family. That was really special," he said.

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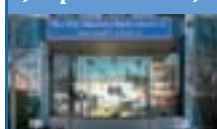
Merry Christmas & best wishes for 2007

Thank you for the great support this year. We enjoyed having you as our guests and are looking forward to your next visit this or next year.

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Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

Soldiers from the 2nd Brigade Combat Team and their fallen comrades are honored during the welcome home ceremony Dec. 6 on Minick Field.

Soldiers return; fallen heroes remembered

By Kelsy Husted

*U.S. Army Garrison Baumholder
Public Affairs Office*

It will be remembered as a significant day for the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 8th Finance Battalion and 90th Personnel Service Battalion. On Dec. 6, 2006, the 2nd BCT, the 8th Finance Battalion and the 90th Personnel Service Battalion uncased their unit colors on Minick Field at Smith Barracks in Baumholder. The uncasing not only signified the Baumholder Soldiers' return from a 12-month deployment to Kuwait and Iraq but also marked an important period in Baumholder history.

This was the second year-long rotation for the 2nd BCT in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Camp Beuhring, Kuwait, was the first stop for 2nd BCT Soldiers as they received orders to serve as the Theater Reserve.

"To G Troop of the Brigade Reconnaissance Team, I told you to be patient and that you would be needed and you

were," said Maj. Gen. Doug Robinson, 1st Armored Division commander.

There was a need for additional coalition forces in Baghdad to help as sectarian violence in Iraq increased. Task Force 2-6 was called forward in March of 2006 to southern Baghdad as part of Operation Scales of Justice.

"Whether it was patrolling the streets of Baghdad and Ramadi, receiving and sending logistics to various locations across Iraq, or helping the Iraqi economy with infrastructure and civic projects, Soldiers accomplished every mission," said Col. Robert Scurlock, 2nd BCT commander.

Providing security for Al Anbar province and Ramadi, Task Force 1-6 and Task Force 1-35 and Soldiers of a forward logistics element arrived in Iraq in May of 2006, joining 1st BCT working in Tammam and Ramadi proper.

"Each Soldier saw something different. Each Soldier has been changed by this experience," said Scurlock.



Photo by Ginalyn Cowles

Kelly and Gary Swanson talk to Col. Robert Scurlock, 2nd BCT commander. The Swanson's son, Staff Sgt. Christopher Swanson, was killed by a sniper in Iraq on July 22.

In July of 2006 the remaining forces in the brigade deployed to Baghdad in support of Operation Together Forward.

The rotation did not come without a cost; as more than a handful of wounded warriors attended the welcome home ceremony.

"They fought hard in battle and now they fight even harder to heal," said Scurlock.

Twenty-nine 2nd Brigade Combat Team Soldiers were killed during the Operation Iraqi Freedom 05-07 rotation, four more than the previous 15-month deployment. And the lives of Gary and Kelly Swanson were forever changed as their son, Staff Sgt. Christopher Swanson, 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, was killed by a sniper on July 22

while leading his squad during a combat patrol in Ramadi.

"It's not about us, it's about supporting these Soldiers," said Gary Swanson.

"This is what our son would want us to do. These Soldiers are our extended family," said Swanson.

"We will never forget them or their sacrifices for our great nation," said Scurlock.

Comrades honor wounded warrior

By Kelsy Husted

U.S. Army Garrison Baumholder Public Affairs Office

Sgt. Chad Rozanski couldn't stand with his fellow Soldiers as they were honored during a Baumholder welcome home ceremony Dec. 6.

But that didn't stop the wheelchair-bound 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment, Soldier from joining his unit during the recognition event, thanks to the efforts of his comrades. Their efforts helped bring the recovering Soldier from Brooke Army Medical Center in Texas to Baumholder.

Rozanski was driving an up-armored High Mobility Multi-Wheeled Vehicle west of Ramadi July 2 in support of combat operations when his vehicle struck an improvised explosive device. The blast ripped the HMMWV in half throwing him from the driver's seat.

Rozanski was pinned to the ground by his burning vehicle. A Soldier in a trail HMMWV used his vehicle as a battering ram to free him.

Soldiers called for an aerial medical evacuation. Once the helicopter arrived, Spc. Julian Tamay, one of Rozanski's closest friends, pushed the medic out of the way so he could load him onto the helicopter.

Rozanski was moved to a combat hospital in Balad and then to Landstuhl after an initial assessment that he had suffered burns over 40 percent of his body. A few days later he was moved to Brooke Army Medical Center for more extensive care at the Army burn center.

It was determined that Rozanski's legs had to be amputated.

While recovering as an outpatient at the San Antonio medical center, Rozanski let his unit mates know he wanted to attend the welcome home ceremony. They worked diligently to find a way to bring him back to Baumholder for the event.

"The 4-27th FA executive officer, Maj. Rick Bower, and the 2nd BCT executive officer, Lt. Col. Richard Anderson, vigorously pursued the possibility of official travel funding for our wounded warrior. Learning on Nov. 28, 2006, that 1st Armored Division and United States Army Europe were unable to support the endeavor, our Soldiers insisted we come up with something fast considering the amount of money it would take to bring both Rozanski and his wife Stephanie to Germany on short notice," said Capt. Brian Gerber, Headquarters Battery, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery commander.

"After consulting with the 2BCT legal advisers, we learned all the rules for voluntary donations so that we could consider them to bring Rozanski and his wife here," he said.

"First we learned that the person responsible for collecting donations should be of lesser rank than Rozanski and that no person in leadership should ask for donations, since we did not want to give the appearance that people were expected to contribute. Since Tamay was such a close friend of his, even pushing medics off of his stretcher so he could be the Soldier that lifted him to the MEDEVAC chopper, it was natural that Tamay stepped forward to be the



Photo by Kelsy Husted

Sgt. Chad Rozanski, Headquarters Battery, 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment, receives a plaque from the members of his unit Dec. 7.

person to collect any voluntary donations.

"He approached fellow soldiers carrying a 'Band of Brothers' DVD case to put the donations in. Tamay said 'That is what we are, a 'Band of Brothers,'" said Gerber.

"In an hour and a half, Tamay had collected enough money for the Rozanskis' airline tickets. Toward the end of the day a Soldier from the Combat Observation Lasing Team Platoon, Spc. Erik Butler, handed me \$249. He said he and the guys from COLT Platoon had saved all of their POGS while down-range so that they could have a party when they returned," said Gerber.

"POGS are paper disks with distinctive military images in the form of change that AAFES provides in five, 10, and 25-cent denominations in foreign theater operations due to the weight of coin change and other mission priorities," he said. "Butler cashed them in and donated the money. Their money ensured that we could pay for lodging in a handicapped accessible room for the Rozanskis.

"Additionally, Soldiers from Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 35th Armor Regiment, the maneuver company that Rozanski served with, also gave contributions that really put the funding over the top. We were able pay for food and allow his wife, Stephanie, an opportunity to see a little of Germany while they were here," said Gerber.

"Chad has always thought of the Soldiers as his family. They treat each other like brothers and now for myself, I finally understand why," said Stephanie Rozanski, Rozanski's grade school sweetheart.

"The Army has been wonderful. If his fellow Soldiers had not done this [raised the money], we would not have been able to be here, she said.

Rozanski, of Greenbriar, Ark., and his wife listened as 1st Armored Division leaders spoke about the brigade's accomplishments, remembered the wounded and fallen, and praised the community's support during the Operation Iraqi Freedom 05-07 deployment.

During his stay Rozanski was recognized as he 'fell in' to battalion formation on Dec. 7. He was awarded a Purple Heart, Combat Action Badge and two Army Commendation Medals for his actions during Operation Iraqi Freedom and service.

"He was finally at home with his brothers," said Gerber.

"There's no place that I would rather receive this Purple Heart than right here with you guys. I have a memory of each and every one of you. You are like brothers to me," said Rozanski.

"It has been difficult to see him like this. He has been my strongest confidant through all of this. Chad is extremely stubborn and strong willed. After all, the name Chad means 'warrior,'" said Rozanski's wife.

"Since my life has changed so much, I really don't have any long-term goals. I have to rethink about those now. But first, I plan to walk again," said Rozanski.

"I am glad that he was able to return and see everyone. He is taking one day at a time and he has his priorities. It was important for him to close this chapter in his life and move on to future accomplishments," said Capt. Matthew Husted, Task Force 1-35 fire support officer.

"It also helps these guys to see me and how I am really doing," said Rozanski. "I would really like to thank Master Sgt. Michael Morton and Spc. Brandon Moore who were with me during the incident. Without those guys, I would not be on this earth today."

Bank closes

The Baumholder Community Bank will be closed Dec. 25 and 26 and again for New Year's on Jan. 1. The staff wishes everyone in the Baumholder community a happy and safe holiday season.

Job opening

Choctaw Management Services Enterprises is seeking candidates for home visitor positions in the Baumholder Army New Parent Support Program. Candidates must be either a licensed clinical MSW or a licensed BSN with two years experience beyond graduation working with expectant mothers, new parents, child abuse or maternal and child health. Send resumes to mariela.fernandez@ima-e.army.mil or fax to civ (06202) 80-6586. For more information call civ (06202) 80-6593 or mil 379-6593.

ACS wants you

Army Community Service is looking for volunteers interested in gaining customer service experience by volunteering to work with the information and referral program manager on an ongoing basis at ACS.

Other volunteer opportunities include assisting with the following programs: relocation assistance, exceptional family member, mobilization and deployment, family advocacy and Army team building.

Contact Ginalyn Cowles, the Baumholder Army Volunteer Corps coordinator at civ (06783) 6-8188 for more information.

Youth Services

Dec. 22, middle school holiday dance at the Underground for sixth through eighth-grade students from 8-11 p.m. Cost is \$5.

Dec. 22, free holiday party at the Smith Youth Center for ninth through 12th-grade students from 6-9 p.m.

Dec 29, free pre-New Year's Eve party at the Underground for sixth through eighth-grade students from 5-8 p.m.



Happenings



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

First place for the Heart

Maj. Gen. Doug Robinson, 1st Armored Division commander, dropped into the Heart of the Rock Cafe, the newly renovated Division Artillery dining facility, to congratulate and present a trophy to the facility members for having prepared the best Thanksgiving meal in Division One which includes all dining facilities on Baumholder and Wiesbaden. Judging included food preparation, presentation and facility decor.

Dec. 29, free pre-New Year's Eve party at the Smith Youth Center for ninth through 12th-grade students from 6-9 p.m.

Jan. 13, tribute to Martin Luther King, Jr. at the Smith Teen Center for ninth through 12th-grade students beginning at 5 p.m., free..

Jan. 20, Lock-in at the Underground for sixth through eighth-grade students from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m.

Jan. 26, pasta and movie night at the Smith Teen Center from 9 a.m. to noon., free.

All participants must be registered with Community Youth Services. For more contact your local youth center or call Youth Services at mil 485-7276.

Outdoor activities

Outdoor Recreation offers the following trips or activities during December and January:

Dec. 23, Black Forest ski trip, \$65.

Dec. 23, last minute shop-

ping trip to Trier, \$35.

Dec. 30, Black Forest ski trip, \$65.

Jan. 5-7, Swiss ski, Interlaken.

Jan. 7, Ice Skating, Bitburg.

Jan. 12, Austria Ski Express, Dorfgestien.

Jan. 13, Frankfurt Zoo.

Jan. 14,

Sled/Toboggan Trip.

Jan. 14, Turkey Shoot and Trap Range.

Jan. 19-21, Garmisch Ski Trip.

Jan. 21, Ice Skating in Bitburg.

Jan. 27, Black Forest Ski Trip.

Jan. 27, Paris Express Trip.

For more information call civ (06783) 6-7182 or mil 485-7182.

Group exercise

Fitness Promotions offers a group fitness class. A group rate is available for \$50 or individual tickets may be purchased for \$4. The minimum number of participants is 15

and the maximum is 30. Call Honey Bueno at civ (06783) 6-7093 or mil 485-7093 to schedule a class.

Rolling Hills

The Rolling Hills Athletic Club is open from noon to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday and noon to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Sunday and holidays.

Call the RHAC for information on pricing at civ (06783) 6-6156.

Family swim night is offered every Friday from 5-8 p.m. The cost is \$1 per person.

RHAC Pool is in need of lifeguards. Contact Warren Latham at the RHAC, civ (06783) 6-6156 or civ (06783) 6-6575.

Fitness classes

The following classes are offered at the Rolling Hills Athletic Club:

● Monday, Friday, spinning, 4:15-5:15 p.m.

● Monday, spinning, 5:30 p.m.

● Monday, belly dancing basic, 6:30 p.m.

● Tuesday, Thursday, yoga,

11:45 a.m.

● Tuesday, Friday, belly dancing basic, 5:30 p.m.

● Tuesday, Friday, belly dancing choreography, 6:30 p.m.

● Wednesday, yoga, 5:30 p.m.

● Belly Dancing classes will resume Jan. 8.

Fitness classes cost \$4 each or 10 for \$30.

No jazz

There will be no class on Jan. 1 and 15.

Jazz dance classes

Register now for the February beginner and level 1 jazz class session. The cost is \$40 for four sessions.

The beginner class will be held on Wednesday from 6:30-8 p.m. The Level I class will be held on Thursday from 6:15-7:45 p.m.

Personal training

Appointments with a personal trainer are available on Tuesday and Thursday in January from noon to 7:30 p.m. The cost is \$20 per one hour session for club members and \$35 for nonmembers.

Try the personal training package deal which includes a one month individual membership to the RHAC and four individual personal training sessions good for four months for \$95.

Boot camp

Keep your New Year's resolution by joining the Boot Camp program which consists of six weeks of classes from Jan. 9 to Feb. 15. Classes will be at the Mountaineer Gym on Tuesday and Thursday from 9:30-10:30 a.m.

The class costs \$50, due at registration, or pay \$5 per class. Register before Jan. 8 at civ (06783) 6-6156 or mil 485-6156.

Wellness massage

Relax with a massage by a certified masseuse at the Rolling Hills Athletic Club. Sports, wellness and fitness massages are now available. Choose from Swedish, deep tissue, hot stone therapy and combination. A 60-minute session costs \$40. To schedule an appointment call mil 485-6156 or civ (06783) 6-6156.

DIVARTY spouses take up arms



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava
DIVARTY spouses receive firing instructions at the Engagement Skills Trainer.

By Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava
*U.S. Army Garrison Baumholder
Public Affairs Office*

Several wives of Soldiers from 1st Armored Division, Division Artillery, had to defend their actions recently after firing upon innocent civilians. The wives never really hurt anyone though, because it was all part of an orientation and training session at the Engagement Skills Trainer facility.

Fifteen spouses showed up to test their firing skills and get a feel for the weapons their Soldiers use.

The weapons use laser technology instead of real ammunition and are all hydraulically controlled to provide the same feel and kick as when firing a real weapon. The full range of weaponry used by Soldiers can be adopted for use on the EST. Everything from grenade

launchers to 60 millimeter guns can be hooked up to the hydraulic system.

"It turned out really well. We had a lot of positive feedback and I've already been asked to schedule another one by the family members and the commander," said Nadia Hall, DIVARTY family readiness support assistant.

Soldiers who have never used the EST facility also dropped by to see what the facility has to offer.

"We have new privates who have never been to that facility before, so they never got to do the shoot, don't shoot scenario or the domestic violence scenarios," said Hall.

Providing the spouses an opportunity to get a feel for what their husbands experience in the field with their weapons was Hall's idea. She first received approval to hold the training session and with

the help of the unit's master gunner, who does all the range scheduling, she arranged the shooting session for the spouses.

She received additional assistance from Sgt. 1st Class William Walker, rear detachment noncommissioned officer in charge, who provided much of the training and guidance on the actual range. He didn't give the spouses any slack when it came to conduct on the firing line. "Don't be surprised if someone jumps on your back if you point your weapon in the wrong direction," Walker told the spouses during a safety briefing.

"It's actually a really good training tool. We were just sitting there during one scenario and they (the instructors) were telling us don't shoot, don't shoot, but some of us actually shot so we had to defend our actions," said Hall.



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Photo by Alexandra Williams

Children give Lt. Col. Antonio Amos, USAG Giessen commander, a hand in illuminating the community tree. Photo right: Alison Strout, age 7, tells Santa and Ms. Claus her Christmas wishes at Hanau's Winter Wonderland in the Kids Korner. Photo below: Members of the Neubrückle Elementary School Choir perform at Strassburg Kaserne for tree lighting ceremony.



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava



Photo by Dennis Johnson

Catching the spirit of the season

By Karl Weisel
U.S. Army Garrison Hessen
Public Affairs Office

December is an emotional roller coaster of a month. It begins long before the actual start of the month (were the Christmas decorations up before Halloween this year?) and rushes by like children on their way out of school on the last day before winter vacation.

What with school concerts, holiday get-togethers, community tree lightings and a host of other seasonal events, one is hard-pressed to find time to actually take a deep breath and bask in the spirit of the occasion.

Whatever holiday you may observe — Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa — the month marks the conclusion of one year and the dawn of a new

one. It brings a series of celebrations large and small — the birthday of a young carpenter in Bethlehem, the commemoration of a long ago victory in battle and the observance of the ritual passage of time as the seconds tick away leading up to midnight on New Year's Eve.

For many families in the U.S. Army Garrison Hessen, this month, like many Decembers before, brings the return of spouses, fathers, mothers and friends from service in distant lands and harm's way. And, as in year's past, for some it means celebrating the season while one family member is absent on that very same mission. While one family gives thanks for the return of a loved one, another looks forward with

hope that all will return home safely in the new year.

December is a challenging month. It's a time to learn once again how to face extravagance and excess, the latest ear-assaulting version of "Silent Night" by yet another pop star of the moment and crass marketing campaigns aimed at whipping up the spirit of the season like some crazed cheerleading squad at a high school homecoming game with grace and aplomb.

But despite the almost frantic pace of the pre-holiday preparations — social obligations, never-ending chores and preparing for guests or a trip to join family across the big water — there comes a time every year when the true spirit of the season eventually does flicker to life.

It may be the genuine warmth in a neighbor's smile as he squeezes your hand and wishes you well, the heartfelt emotion released when singing a favorite holiday carol with family and friends or the simple joy of seeing Christmas in all its glory for the first time again through the eyes of one's children.

In the end, December is not that much different than any other month of the year. It offers the chance to do good, to help one's fellows and thereby one's self and to look forward to what tomorrow will bring with hope and resolve.

It just seems to be a lot noisier and to zip by twice as fast as all the other months.

May your holidays be peaceful and the new year bring nothing but glad tidings.



Photo by Karl Weisel

Members of the Russian St. Daniel's Choir perform at the USAG Hessen holiday celebration Dec. 15. Photo right: Spc. Lynell Allison, of HHC, Division Support Command, looks on as her son, Jaden, age 4, gets a hug and Christmas treats from St. Nick and his angel friend at Hessen Minister President Roland Koch's annual holiday get-together for U.S. Soldiers and their families at Wiesbaden's Schloss Biebrich Dec. 19. Koch thanked Soldiers stationed in Hessen for their years of defending freedom and help in reunifying Germany after World War II. "It's a privilege as a German to be able to host you," he said.



Photo by Susan Huseman

Spc. Baker of the 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, joins the Büdingen Fire Brigade Band at the tree lighting ceremony on Armstrong Barracks.



Photo by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava

Brig. Gen. David R. Hogg, 1st Armored Division's assistant division commander for support, and Santa Claus, applaud after throwing the switch to light the Baumholder Christmas tree. This year's tree lighting also served as a moment to welcome Soldiers of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team back from Iraq to their home away from home in Germany.



Photo by Carole Mann

Wiesbaden first-grader Kaitlyn Buckley chats with Santa at Hainerberg Elementary School's breakfast with Santa.



Photo by Dennis Johnson

Spc. Cece Faison (left) and Spc. Nathan Skornia wrap gifts for the Army Community Service Adopt an Angel program at Hanau ACS



Photo by Karl Weisel



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Food, fun at Giessen Elementary's Souper Night

By Alexandra Williams
U.S. Army Garrison Giessen
Public Affairs Office

More than 100 parents and children attended the Giessen Elementary School's Souper Night held at the school's gym Dec. 5.

"Souper Night is a fun event for our parents and children," explained principal Barbara Mueller.

Families were treated to homemade food. Teachers cooked their favorite soup and students, parents and fellow teachers tasted and then voted for their favorite recipe.

Children enjoyed games and decorated sugar cookies. Guests could also win antique items, Polish pottery, crystal and toys.

"Last year we hosted the Chili Cook-off. It was a huge success, so this year we wanted to do something similar, yet different," Mueller said.

With the event the staff wanted to demonstrate their gratitude for the unending support and assistance parents give to the school, she continued.

"We are continually asking our parents for help; to volunteer for this activity, to help out in that class, to attend a field trip. It's our way of saying



Photo by Alexandra Williams

Isaiah Boulware (left) and his sister Bonnie look forward to trying some of Ami Oltrogge's pumpkin soup at Giessen Elementary School's Souper Night.

thank you. Plus, the friendly competition is fun for us," Mueller said.

Twelve teachers cooked their favorite soup recipe to be judged by students and parents. This year's winner was Melinda Steven's "Magnificent Mexican" soup, she said.

"It was not a requirement for anyone to cook or to spend the evening at the school, so I am pleased with the admirable

turnout of teachers and staff," Mueller said.

The fact that it was the last holiday event the school hosted made everybody sad, Mueller said.

"Although our ultimate goal was to provide a night out for parents, the camaraderie is good for our staff. It keeps us close," she said.

The highlight for most students was the visit of St. Nicholas.

According to German tradition St. Nicholas fills children's boots with small gifts and candy on the night of Dec. 5 while the children sleep. To be prepared for his visit teachers helped the students craft little paper boots. However, as the man who resembled Santa Claus entered the gym, some took off their own boots hoping to get even more candy.

"He looks like Santa. It's

great he is coming to our school. I like him because he brings us gifts," said third-grader Miles Smith.

"My favorite part was the teacher's soup competition. It makes me feel special that they cooked for us and let us vote for our favorite soup," Smith said.

"I tried six different soups and my favorite was the chili," said sixth-grader Tamija Aniton while decorating some sugar cookies. "We could do this more often. It's nice to have our parents at the school to eat together and have some fun."

"This is Mr. Green and not Santa," said first-grader Kiara Evans to her friend Tamija as she took a look at Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas. When Tamija pointed to the soup line where Mr. Green was talking to another teacher, Kiara was stunned for only a second.

"OK, it's not Mr. Green but it's not the real Santa either," she said. "The real Santa is too busy getting ready for Christmas, but it's nice that someone came here for him."

"I didn't try any of the soups because I don't like soup, but Santa or St. Nick gave me candy anyway," Evans said.

Support groups available to help pregnant women, new dads

By Alexandra Williams
U.S. Army Garrison Giessen
Public Affairs Office

Going through pregnancy while her husband is deployed may leave an expecting mother feeling alone and afraid. She is experiencing changes almost daily but has no one to share them with.

Expectant Parent Group

For that reason Tina Toner and Laura Knarr, home visitors of the New Parent Education and Support Program, will host the Expectant Parent Support Group, a service especially designed for the spouses of deployed Soldiers.

"With the deployment and extension of 1st Brigade (deployed) Soldiers will be missing the birth of their child," said Toner. "Therefore many expectant moms may feel lonely. So we wanted to provide them with a place to meet others who are in the same situation and to talk about preg-

nancy," she said.

During the monthly Expectant Parents Support Group meetings participants will learn about the stages of pregnancy, talk about the feelings they are having (including those about being pregnant while their spouse is deployed) and physical changes they are experiencing.

"They get to speak to other women in the same situation. This can be an advantage, especially since their husbands are deployed and there is no family around," she said.

Daddy Boot Camp

Toner and Knarr have plans for the (new) dads in the community. Whether they have returned from a deployment and just met their new baby or if they were here for the birth — a new father is often overwhelmed with the changes a baby brings to his life.

"The Daddy Boot Camp teaches men all the things they really need to know

about fatherhood," said Toner.

The one-day class is taught by an experienced father and includes lessons on how to get through those sticky situations a newborn presents, she said.

"Dads learn how to stay awake at work and how to construct an emergency diaper," Toner added.

The support groups will have their first meetings in January. However, a specific date, day or time has not yet been determined.

"We are waiting for individuals to register so we can see how many wish to attend and what dates would be best to enable everyone interested to attend the meetings," Toner said.

If you are interested in joining one of the support groups call Tina Toner or Laura Knarr at mil 343-9322. Their office is located with the Army Community Service in Building 3 on the Giessen Depot.



Youth Services

Youth Services offers a trip to the **Giessen Christmas Market** for youths age 11-18 Dec. 23 at 2 p.m. Cost is \$2. Transportation from Butzbach will be provided. A permission slip is required.

A trip to **Hanau's Hessen Bowl** for youths age 11-18 is scheduled for Dec. 28 at noon. Cost is \$10 including transportation, rental and games.

A **New Year's Dance Party** for teenagers age 14-18 is Dec. 30 at 7 p.m. at the Butzbach YS. Transportation from Giessen is provided. The cost is \$3 and includes fun, food, games and more.

For more information call Giessen YS at mil 343-6129 and the Butzbach YS at civ (06033) 73048.

School-Age Services hosts a **winter camp** Dec. 26 to Jan 5 themed "Fresh Start." Trips, swimming and ice skating will be featured. For details call SAS in Giessen at mil 343-6128, in Butzbach at civ (06033) 65961 or in Bad Nauheim at civ (06032) 803 803.

Brass band fills chapel with holiday spirit

By Alexandra Williams
*U.S. Army Garrison Giessen
Public Affairs Office*

Traditional German Christmas music performed by a brass group added a festive touch to the Protestant worship service in Friedberg Dec. 3. The Laisbachtaler Bläser, a local award-winning hunting horn band, performed for the congregation to celebrate the season.

"It has become a tradition that the group performs on the first Sunday in Advent for the Friedberg congregation," said Chaplain (Col.) Bruce Fredrickson, 1st Brigade rear detachment chaplain. "It means a lot to our community that the musicians bring holiday spirit to the chapel."

The performance in the military chapel has always been special for the band as well, said the group's spokeswoman, Emmi Bolyard.

"It's the sixth year we've come here to entertain the military community. It has always been a special event for us and we enjoyed it, but this year it has been hard because we know it's the last time," Bolyard said.

Bolyard, a clerk at the Hanau Dental Clinic, and her husband, Archie, initiated the concert tradition. Both have been members of the Friedberg congregations for more than 30 years. The American couple lives in Babenhausen but always had close



Photo by Alexandra Williams

The Laisbachtaler Bläser perform traditional German Christmas music for an Advent worship service Dec. 3 at Friedberg's Ray Barracks.

bonds with the Friedberg Protestant congregation. Both are hunters and also play the hunting horn and founded the band 10 years ago.

"About six years ago we thought we could play for the first Advent for our congregation. We wanted to give them a taste of the German culture. Since then we've returned every year," she said.

"Like every year we were looking forward to performing on Ray Barracks. The only sad thing is that most Soldiers are deployed and we could not play for them," Bolyard said. "We hope

they all return home safely very soon."

The 10-member band ended its performance with "Amazing Grace" which is known among Germans as "A Beautiful Day."

"The German version talks about how no matter how tough it gets and the hardships you must endure you will always have this beautiful day we have spent together to remember," she said.

"Keep it in mind and never give up the hope, especially the spouses whose husbands are gone," Bolyard said.

"The music was great and it was

cool that the band came to the chapel," said Spc. Joshua Revak, 1st Battalion, 37th Armor Regiment.

Revak, who usually attends a service in Giessen, said he made the trip to Friedberg to hear the horn group. "For Soldiers it is hard to experience culture with all of the deployments going on — so this was a great chance to hear German holiday music," he said. "I wish all Soldiers and their families, especially my fellow Bandits — safe and happy holidays."

"It's my fourth year coming to hear them play," said Hope Marchi. "It's nice to hear the traditional German Christmas music. It's different from the music we listen to at home. They sing Christmas carols but not this type of music. But I recognized some of the songs."

"I am a trumpeter myself and I played in a brass band. We used to play Christmas carols but not this type of music," said Patty Sue Nakazono. "It was nice to sit back and relax instead of playing myself. I enjoyed the music because it was so festive — telling us 'Christmas is coming.'"

"I was looking forward to this the entire week," said Fredrickson. "The music brought people together. To end with 'Amazing Grace' was very nice because it reminds us of the importance of God in our lives and gets us in the spirit. It's an introduction to the Christmas season."

Community spotlights

Actors sought

The Keller Theatre hosts auditions Jan. 23 and 24 starting at 7 p.m. for "Independence." Four women, backstage and technical assistance is needed. For details call the Keller Theatre at mil 343-6515.

'The Betrayal' at theater

The Giessen Keller Theatre hosts a guest presentation of "The Betrayal" by The White Horse Theatre Jan. 19-20, 26-27 and Feb. 2-3. Tickets are \$12. Shows begin at 7:30 p.m. For more information and reservations call the box office at mil 343-6515.

Restaurant hours

The Alpine Catering Center on the Giessen Depot will be closed Dec. 24-27 and Dec. 31 to Jan. 1. The Villa Calabria



Photo by Alexandra Williams

Meeting Santa for first time

Eight-month-old Emilio Rodriguez looks at Santa with surprise as he sits on his lap at the tree lighting ceremony Dec. 6 on the Giessen Depot.

Restaurant on Friedberg's Ray Barracks will be closed Dec. 24-26 and Dec. 31 to Jan. 1.

Health Clinic hours

The Friedberg Health Clinic is open through Dec. 28 Mon-

day to Friday from 7:30 a.m. to noon and is closed in the afternoon. The Butzbach Health Clinic remains open all day. Both clinics will be closed Dec. 25-26, 29 and Jan. 1.

Giessen Library hours

The Giessen Library is open Tuesday to Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2-5:30 p.m. The library is closed on Sunday, Monday, U.S. and German holidays.

PAO email address

The Giessen Public Affairs Office has a new Email address. Send your written requests and suggestions to usaggiessenpao@104asg.army.mil.

BOSS New Year's party

The Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers Program hosts a New Year's Eve party

Dec. 31 from 8 p.m. to 3 a.m. at the Alpine Club on the Giessen Depot. The event is open to the entire community not just single Soldiers. Entrance fee is \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door and includes a live disc jockey with a variety of music, three dinner choices and door prizes. For more information and reservations call mil 324-3158.

Substitute teachers sought

Department of Defense Dependents Schools substitute teaching and administrative positions will become available soon. Pick up an application packet at the school where you wish to work. Paperwork takes about six to eight weeks to be processed. For details call the school liaison officer at mil 343-7320.

Getting Fido ready for shipping

Don't forget family pet when planning a move

Editor's note: This is the first in a series on planning for a move.

By Alexandra Williams

U.S. Army Garrison Giessen Public Affairs Office

Planning ahead ensures a smooth move. But don't forget the family pet.

Finding out the requirements for the state or country you will be moving to is an important step in preparing to ship a pet, said Holly Strout, receptionist for the Hanau and Giessen veterinary clinic.

"Hawaii, the United Kingdom and Japan are a few of the countries that have very strict regulations and requirements," she said. "You may need up to six months to prepare your animals for these PCS moves, so being prepared is a necessity if you would like to bring along your animal."

The next step is to check if your cat or dog has a current rabies vaccination. It must be older than 30 days but no older than 11 months, she said. "Take a look at your pet's record now to ensure the vaccination has not expired," Strout advised.

The vet clinic in Hanau maintains records of pets registered in U.S. Army Garrison Giessen, so you can call the clinic to inquire if the vaccination is up-to-date, she said.

Another document needed is a health certificate. "The certificate cannot be older than nine days," Strout said. "It's best to call early to make an appointment within nine days of your flight home."

"The vet clinic works diligently to ensure every registered animal is able to receive a health certificate even during the summer months which is the peak PCS season," Strout said.

However, it is the pet owner's responsibility to ensure the animal is registered and current in its vaccinations.

Pets without a valid health certificate cannot legally fly to the United States.

In case the certificate cannot be issued because the animal is sick it will be rescheduled for a recheck



Photo by Petra Roberts

To ensure a smooth move with your pet make preparations as soon as possible.

and health certificate appointment after the recommended treatment.

"When you have any doubt about the condition of your pet it is important that you schedule an appointment for your animal before your nine day flight window for your PCS move," she recommended.

The certificate costs \$13 with an additional \$2 surcharge which is added to each VTF visit.

Community members concerned about lack of time to travel to Hanau may also see a German vet.

"We have a list of local vets posted at the front door of the vet clinic, but you may also call us," Strout said.

"Keep in mind that the German veterinary clinics must follow a price list set by the German government, and their costs are significantly higher for vaccinations and other services," she said.

The Hanau VTF offers services for animals once a month in Giessen from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Giessen records are kept at the Hanau VTF and Giessen patients can also be seen during clinic hours in Hanau. The Hanau vet clinic can be reached at civ (06181) 88-8160 or mil 322-8160.

USAG Giessen pet owners are reminded that they need to come to the Hanau facility to outprocess.

The last step in planning is to decide how the animal will be transported. "All animals up to 100 pounds can be checked in as baggage, and everything

above that weight has to be sent as cargo," said Gisela Schwartz, SATOTravel office representative in Giessen.

Transportation of pets must be paid for by the customer.

"The cost is about \$125 per kennel — from small to large. Only one animal will be allowed in a kennel," she said.

Bringing your pet on the same plane could become a problem in the summer, Schwarz said. "Most airlines announce embargoes when it's either too hot or too cold," she explained. As soon as temperatures are higher than 85 degrees Fahrenheit or below 45 degrees Fahrenheit animals will no longer be transported.

"Continental and U.S. Air do not transport animals at all," Schwarz added.

Usually the airline to be used is determined by the destination. However, SATOTravel staff will assist their customers in arranging for an airline that transports pets -- if that airline is going to the customer's destination and is not more expensive than the airline contracted by the U.S. government.

"Another option is (to use) pet shipping services. They are more expensive but it's a safe way to take your pet to the new duty station," Schwarz explained.

Gradlyn Airfreight Kennels and Pet Air are two pet shipping companies located at the Frankfurt International Airport. Both offer daily departures, pick-up service and guarantee that pets are transported in heated and pressurized cabins. The SATOTravel office in Giessen has information or you can go to Gradlyn's website at www.gkair.de or visit Pet Air's website at www.petair.de.

It's advisable to check with the companies because some basic prerequisites must be met. According to their websites the above mentioned health certificate as well as the rabies certificate must be presented along with copies of orders (for customs clearance) and a contact address in the United States. They also have specific guidance and restrictions on the crates to be used to guarantee the pet's safety. *(See next issue for a look at legal and humane options for people who can't take Fido along when they are relocating.)*

Appreciation for an outstanding teacher

Commentary by Maj. Tod Hunter
1st Armored Division Engineer Brigade

Dedicated teachers can have positive influences on their students and often they make a difference. As a parent I am grateful that my son has such a teacher who doesn't hesitate to take personal time to help his students to achieve their goals.

Jonathan Petrick, from Giessen High School, is an outstanding example of what today's teachers should strive to achieve.

My family and I have seen how he has made a positive impact on many students' lives in spite of limited resources and general lack of support from the school administration. We were fortunate to have had him in Giessen.

Over the past three years Petrick has imple-



Jonathan Petrick

mented and improved the AVID program, created and improved the Giessen Cross Country team and coached the track team.

Focusing on the cross country team, Petrick re-instituted the sport at Giessen after it was missing for over a decade.

The first year team in 2005 competed against the other schools in Europe with established programs and school support.

The Giessen runners did well individually, but there were too few to compete as a team. However,

other coaches in the league praised Petrick for bringing back the sport to Giessen and for hosting a home meet at the Schiffenberg Castle in spite of not having all the required equipment.

The second year, there were enough runners to form a boy's team that completed the season with a third place finish out of 12 teams in Division III/IV at the Heidelberg European Championships. Average run times for both boys and girls increased each week during the season, a testament to Petrick's knowledge and dedication to the sport.

As a teacher and a coach, Petrick is in my opinion, a valuable asset to any school. His dedication to the students is second to none because he is willing to take personal time to assist students who come to him for help with academics or athletics.

Tracing World War II history

Veteran shares memories of Depression and war with students

By Susan Huseman
*U.S. Army Garrison Hessen
Public Affairs Office*

Most people love a good story, and Dudley Strasburg can tell scores of them — all true accounts of his life growing up in the Great Depression in the 1930s and as a U.S. Army combat infantryman during World War II.

The 81-year-old came to Hanau to share his experiences with Argonner Elementary School teacher Amy Rochowiak's fifth-grade class Dec. 1. This was his fifth visit to the school.

"Dudley originally contacted the school after he read an article in the *Herald Union* about my class studying the Holocaust and asked if he could come in to talk to the students," Rochowiak said.

"About four years ago a study was published in Washington," said Strasburg. "There were 16 million Americans who served in the armed services in World War II. Four years ago there were four million left. We are dying at the rate of 1,100 a day or 400,000 a year, which means in about 10 years all of us will be dead.

"It is important to do these talks while some of us are still alive," he continued.

As a 19-year-old infantry radioman with Company I, 94th Infantry Division, 3rd U.S. Army, Strasburg saw plenty of death. His unit was chosen as the attack company to breach the Siegfried Line, a defense system stretching more than 390 miles with thousands of bunkers for German soldiers and their machine guns.

One early morning in February 1945, Strasburg's company of 175 men crossed the Saar River in small rowboats as German bullets flew all around them. The Soldiers knew they were headed for the fight of their lives.

By 11 a.m. they had knocked out three German bunkers and moved on to their next objective — six farmhouses held by German soldiers. The company captured the houses, one by one, said Strasburg.

"After we captured the fourth house we took a count. Out of 175 Soldiers, only 12 remained," he said. Only a

minute after taking the head count, another Soldier was killed, leaving 11 Soldiers to finish the mission.

"A few minutes after capturing the fifth house I went to the back door and tried to see out toward the sixth house. I saw about 30 German soldiers there. I watched them, and after about five minutes I saw a little side door open. I saw a man come out, crawling on his hands and knees. He had grenades in both hands and two belts of grenades draped around his neck," Strasburg said.

"I shot him in his head. This was the first Soldier I killed where I looked him in the eyes. He was not more than 10-12 meters from me. ... A few seconds later I was shot in the stomach," he said.

Strasburg thought his fate was sealed. "We had learned almost no one who was shot in the stomach survived."

He was carried into the house by his buddies, and put on the only piece of furniture in the house, a table, with the 42-pound radio still strapped to him.

"I was expecting to die," he said. As he lay there waiting, he called in artillery to destroy the sixth house.

"I didn't discover why I was still alive until after 6 p.m.," Strasburg said. He examined his uniform. "I had on seven layers of clothing — all with a bullet hole. The bullet even went through my cartridge belt."

"Every morning we were given three K-rations (a non-perishable, ready-to-eat meal that could fit in a Soldier's pocket). I suddenly felt this box in my field jacket. I took out the box — it was in shreds and it smelled bad.

"I opened it up. There was a can of corned pork loaf — no one would ever eat this; we always threw it away. The bullet went into the can

and singed the meat, causing the smell." Strasburg found half of the bullet buried in the pork.

"I realized then that the bullet had been stopped. I wasn't shot, only bruised."

In April Strasburg's unit moved on to a suburb of Solingen, near Düsseldorf, as the occupation force. "We knew our job was going to be rounding up 'DPs,' displaced people taken by the Nazis as slave labor, mostly girls and women



Photo by Susan Huseman

World War II veteran Dudley Strasburg shares his experiences with Argonner Elementary School teacher Amy Rochowiak's fifth-grade class.

from all over Europe," he said.

Strasburg, as the radioman, was staying in a house with the commander and first sergeant. He heard a banging on the front door and opened it. "Right in front of me appeared to be an old man," said Strasburg. "He was in his 50s, but to a 19-year-old kid he looked old. 'Komm,' he said."

After getting permission from the first sergeant, a cautious Strasburg followed the German through the village to the countryside, into the meadows and then a forest. "I was afraid; I thought I'd get jumped," he said.

They came to an opening in the forest and the man got down on his hands and knees and started pushing aside twigs and leaves and then began digging, Strasburg said.

"He opened up a trench where there was a body. For the next hour or two he continued and uncovered 71 dead men," he said. "Each man was tied to the one next to him with heavy wire wrapped around their wrists. Everyone had a bullet hole in the throat."

This was a common practice of the Nazis. These were anti-Nazis who had been imprisoned. "When the Nazis pulled out of a town they murdered their own German people," said Strasburg.

After Strasburg reported what he saw he was put in charge of removing the bodies and reburying them. Thirty former Nazi supporters were forced to dig the bodies out of the trench and dig 71 individual graves as the local citizens watched, he said. "This was a big turning point for me."

The students were mesmerized with Strasburg's stories. When the dismissal

bell rang groans rang out. "We are studying World War II, the Great Depression and what happened to the Jewish people," said Daejah Jones. "He was in the war and it was very interesting to meet a person who was in the war, someone who actually witnessed these kinds of events."

Jones said she was most impressed with how Strasburg made sure he was fit for service. Strasburg had poor eyesight, she said. "He went to the eye doctor, had an eye check and failed the test. He told the doctor, 'I want to sit in your office until I memorize your eye chart.' And he did. He got the eye chart questions right. He did that for his country."

Justin Phillips enjoyed hearing about Strasburg's childhood. "I liked when he was talking about his life when he was small: how the people lived during the Great Depression. It was hard to put food on the table."

"My mom always says we're lucky and spoiled," Phillips said. "She says we shouldn't complain about the food we eat. We have a house. I have a lot to be thankful for."

"I am hoping that the students develop an appreciation for the Great Depression and World War II generation," said Rochowiak. "They are a generation that doesn't take anything for granted and very rarely complains. Furthermore, the students are actually meeting someone who I term as 'living history.'"

Strasburg said he hopes his talks to school children will plant a seed of peace. "I was not a professional Soldier," he said. "I wanted to defeat the Nazis and the Japanese and end the war — all wars."

Painting the Afghan landscape

By Dennis Johnson
U.S. Army Garrison Hessen
Public Affairs Office

A year in the Afghan desert inspired one U.S. Army Garrison Hessen Soldier to create colorful canvases. His wartime artwork will be featured in an exhibition in Hanau through Feb. 2.

Spc. Mark Duran, a military policeman with the 92nd Military Police Company based in Baumholder and assigned to Hanau, painted the artworks during a deployment to Afghanistan from April 2005 to February 2006.

"The paintings are mostly landscapes. I wanted to keep it simple and stay away from anything military," said Duran. "I want to show the German people that we're not just warmongers, we're sensitive too. Most Soldiers will tell you that you spend a lot of time looking around while pulling security.

"It's the same technique as an artist observing a particular place. After a while the image is engraved into your memory," he said.

Duran, a New Mexico native, started painting at age 15 when he would exchange yard work for art lessons with a local college art professor who lived in his neighborhood. He attended the University of Alaska Southeast to study fine art with the idea of becoming an art teacher.

"I wanted ocean and mountains and I found it there," said Duran. A college exchange program took him to Holland for a year. "I fell in love with Europe and used the Army to get back to Europe."

Duran joined the Army in 1999

Artist creates evocative images of war-torn Afghanistan



Mark Duran hangs his paintings for the Hanau exhibit Dec. 15.

and arrived in Hanau in 2000 where he painted sets for the Five Pfennig Theatre and sold his artwork through the Galerie Reus am Markt in Hanau.

Duran left the Army to attend college again to earn a Master of Science

in Education. When he returned to the Army and Hanau in 2004 he was deployed to Afghanistan. "Everything in the exhibit is from Afghanistan, whether I painted it there or painted it later from sketches or photos," said

Duran. The exhibit comprises five large oil paintings and 20 smaller pieces.

"Oil on canvas is my favorite medium by far. The fluidity of it, the ease to move it around," said Duran. Oil dries slowly and allows an image to be reworked. Watercolor was out of the question in the heat of Afghanistan, according to Duran.

"Painting was also a way to cope with the bad stuff happening all around us," said Duran.

Duran's show will be on display Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. through Feb. 2 at the Kathinka-Platzhoof-Stiftung at the Niederländisch-Wallonische Kirche, Französische Allee 12, in Hanau. From the Hanau Marktplatz walk south (opposite direction of the town hall and Brothers Grimm statue) down the street to the left of the McDonald's restaurant. The large Niederländisch-Wallonische Kirche was bombed during World War II and part of it remains roofless.



Mark Duran's easel while deployed in Afghanistan and (photo right) one of his Afghan inspired landscapes.



New Year's events

New Year's Eve bowling

Ring in the new year at the Hessen Bowl on Wolfgang Shopping Center in Hanau. For \$60 up to six people can bowl from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. Fee includes shoe rental, raffle tickets, giveaways and a champagne toast at midnight.

Chapel schedule

Dec. 31 — New Year's Eve Gospel Watch Night service and breakfast at Pioneer Chapel at 10 p.m.

For information call the Hanau Chaplain's Office at mil 322-1370.

Frankfurt-n-Motion

The Frankfurt-n-Motion Sports and Social Club is a new international community group in the Frankfurt area that provides opportunities to join other expatriates in sporting events, dances, concerts, plays, trips, dinners, movies, festivals, wine tastings, parties, jam sessions, barbecues and "pub Tuesdays." For events on the New Year's weekend go to www.groups.yahoo.com/group/frankfurt-n-motion and click on "calendar."

Frankfurt goes wild

At midnight New Year's Eve many Frankfurters gather around the medieval town square, the Römer, and along the banks of the Main River to light up

the sky with fireworks.

New Year's Eve dining

Book ahead if you want to dine out in Frankfurt on New Year's Eve. Many restaurants have special all-inclusive meals prepared for the evening. If you expect to just walk in to dine you may be disappointed.

Erlensee

New Year's Eve Gala Dec. 31 at 8 p.m. at the "Pascha" Tanzcafe located at Rhönstrasse 9, Erlensee. Advance sale tickets cost €50 and €65 at the door. The ticket includes free admission during January.

Büdingen

Enjoy a New Year's Eve Night

Watchman Tour Dec. 31 at 9 p.m. at the Marktplatz. The guided tour will be in German. Call the tourist office at civ (06042) 96370 to sign up.

Hanau

A New Year's Eve Swing evening will be held Dec. 31 starting at 9 p.m. at the Whisky-a-Go-Go piano bar located at Marktstrasse 11-13, Hanau. Tickets must be purchased in advance at Whisky à Go-Go (limited number of tickets available). Call civ (06181) 507-9665 or visit www.whiskyagogo-hanau.de for more information.

Maintal-Bischofsheim

A New Year's Eve organ concert is Dec. 31 at 10 p.m. at the Evangelische Kirche in Alt Bischofsheim.

Community notes . . . Community notes

EFMP screening

Exceptional Family Member Program screening is required for every family member (whether identified as an EFM or not) when a Soldier moves to an overseas duty location and family member travel is authorized at government expense. For Soldiers in Germany that includes a continuing overseas tour, inter-theater transfer, foreign-service tour extension or move to Alaska or Hawaii. The screening must be completed within the year before the move. Contact Susan Moyer, EFMP manager, at mil 322-8965, civ (06181) 88-8965, or by email at susan.moyer1@us.army.mil for information.

Christmas tree disposal

Government housing residents should place Christmas trees outside the nearest recycling center alongside the bulk trash fence between Dec. 26 and Jan. 8. Do not block the entrances and remove all decorations.

Hutier DFAC awards

Hutier Kaserne's Touch of Home Cafe dining facility won an award for the best Thanksgiving meal presentation in the 21st Theater Support Command. A trophy was presented to the DFAC staff by Brig. Gen. Scott West, 21st TSC commanding general, Dec 13.

Spc. Timothy Baker, 16th CSG food service specialist, received a plaque for best ice sculpture. The DFAC staff received commander's coins and certificates of appreciation.

Tax volunteers

Tax volunteers are needed during the upcoming income tax season. A Volunteer Income Tax Assistance class taught by the IRS will be held Jan. 8-11, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at the Hanau Education Center, Building 11, Pioneer Kaserne. Participants will learn the latest electronic tax software, changes in tax law and receive a tax preparer certificate. For information call mil 322-9801/9579.

Transformation link

Find the latest transformation news in the U.S. Army Garrison Hessen and Hanau Community at the transformation web page at www.hanau.army.mil. The web page has information about shipping pets and household goods, the exceptional family member program, passports, housing notifications, German rentals and housing, PCS moves and more.

Chapel schedule

Dec. 24 — Gospel Christmas Program at Pioneer Chapel 11 a.m.

Dec. 24 — Protestant Christmas Eve service at Büdingen Chapel 5 p.m.

Dec. 24 — Christmas Eve Catholic Mass at Fliegerhorst Chapel 6 p.m.

Dec. 24 — Protestant Christmas Eve service at Pioneer Chapel 7 p.m.

Dec. 31 — New Year's Eve Gospel Watch Night service and breakfast at Pioneer Chapel 10 p.m. For information call the Hanau Chaplain's Office at mil 322-1370.

Engineers honor retiring sergeants

The 130th Engineer Brigade honored two retiring sergeants at a ceremony Dec. 6. Sgt. 1st Class Dana R. Mays of Newark, N.J., and Sgt. 1st Class Vincent L. Leno of Massillon,

Ohio, each completed 20 years of service. After retirement, Mays plans to pursue a career in social work. Leno plans to live and work in Germany.

Meningitis vaccination

The meningitis vaccination is mandatory for all school students and is available at the Hanau Health Clinic. Ensure your student is immunized by Jan. 23. Call civ (06181) 500-6658.

Flu shots

Flu shots are available at the Hanau Health Clinic for everyone. Units can contact the Soldier Medical Readiness Center at mil 328-6645 to receive flu shots

as a unit. Call mil 328-6658.

Volunteers of the month

Congratulations to Meghan Florkowski, 502nd Engineer Company Family Readiness Group; Frank Duncan, USO; Martina Griffin, 130th Engineer Brigade Headquarters and Headquarters Company Family Readiness Group; Colin McCormick, Army Volunteer Corp Army Community Service; Laura James, Hanau Community Spouses Club; Joe Harris, American Red Cross. Your contributions to the community make it a great place to live.

AFAP volunteers

Volunteers are needed for the Hanau Army Family Ac-

tion Plan conference to be held Jan. 24-26 at the Community Activities Center on Fliegerhorst Kaserne. For information call mil 322-8965, email mary.jernigan@104asg.army.mil, or stop by ACS on Pioneer Kaserne.

Scholarship program

Applications for Hanau Community Spouses Club Scholarships may be picked up after Jan. 15. Applications are available at the Büdingen and Hanau Education Centers and Hanau High School guidance counselor office. Graduating students with a 2.0 GPA and adult ID holders enrolled in an accredited college are eligible. For information contact Jeannette Kula at jeannette.kula@us.army.mil.

Classes with the Hanau USO

receive a \$10 discount.

PiYo

PiYo is Pilates and yoga morphed into one workout. Bring a yoga mat. The class is Jan. 8 to Feb. 5, Monday and Wednesday, from 5-6 p.m. in Room 419, Building 3, Pioneer Kaserne. Cost is \$50.

Pilates

Try Pilates to get leaner and stronger with exercises that tone your entire body. The eight-session class will be held Tuesday and Thursday Jan. 9 to Feb. 1 from 7-8 p.m. in Room 419, Building 3, Pioneer Kaserne. Cost is \$50.

Power Yoga Flow

Try a faster paced Ashtanga-style yoga class. The class will be adjusted to your fitness level and yoga experience. The eight-session class will be held Tuesday and Thursday Jan. 9 to Feb. 1 from 5:30-6:30 p.m. in Room 419, Building 3, Pioneer Kaserne. Cost is \$60.

Gentle Yoga Fusion

This is a gentle yoga class blending tai chi, strength training and Pilates. This class is perfect for beginners and anyone with injuries or special considerations. The eight-session class will be held Tuesday and Thursday Jan. 9 to Feb. 1 from 9-10 a.m. in Room 419, Build-

ing 3, Pioneer Kaserne. Cost is \$60.

Personal training

A certified personal trainer can help design the perfect workout for you. They'll focus on your specific needs while teaching proper techniques to get the most out of your workouts. Four one-hour sessions cost \$65. Call mil 322-8725 to arrange a time.

Yoga Safari

Share the fun and joy of yoga with your child. This class is an hour of creativity and exploration as you stretch through each animal pose together. Appropriate for children age 5 and up. The four-session class will be held on Wednesday Jan. 10-31 from 4-5 p.m. in Room 419, Building 3, Pioneer Kaserne. Cost is \$40 for adult and child, \$20 for each additional child.

Yoga Buddy

Double the yoga fun with a family member or friend. All fitness levels welcome. Appropriate for anyone age 10 and up. The eight-session class will be held Tuesday and Thursday Jan. 9 to Feb. 1 from 4-4:50 p.m. in Room 419, Building 3, Pioneer Kaserne. Cost is \$65 per couple and \$35 for each extra person.

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Hanau units welcomed home 16th Corps Support Group Soldiers celebrate return from Iraq, uncase colors

By Karl Weisel and
Dennis Johnson
U.S. Army Garrison Hessen
Public Affairs Office

Soldiers and families of the 16th Corps Support Group converged on Hanau's Cardwell Fitness Center Dec. 8 to commemorate the completion of their Operation Iraqi Freedom mission.

After uncasing the 16th CSG, 181st Transportation Battalion and 485th Corps Support Battalion colors, Col. Victor Maccagnan Jr., 16th CSG commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Rickey R. Driskell attached a Meritorious Unit Commendation streamer to the 16th CSG colors at the ceremony.

During the morning ceremony Maccagnan lauded the efforts of everyone who supported the units while they were deployed and those of the Soldiers who went into harm's way.

Citing the 2,000 combat logistical patrols, 2,100 repairs of vehicles and equipment and 800 million gallons of fuel supplied by the units during their



Photos by Dennis Johnson

Col. Victor Maccagnan, Jr., 16th CSG commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Rickey R. Driskell attach a Meritorious Unit Commendation streamer to the unit colors.

time in Iraq — the second time downrange for each of the units — Maccagnan said the colors represent "every American citizen who has ever stood in the defense of freedom. ... These colors embody your excellence and what you have done."

While thanking the Family Readiness Group members, Hanau and Mannheim communities for their dedicated support throughout the year-long deployment, Maccagnan also remembered the five Sol-

diers in subordinate units who sacrificed their lives during the mission.

Brig. Gen. Michael J. Lally, commander of the 3rd Corps Support Command, joined 16th CSG leaders in recognizing FRG leaders, civilian employees and Soldiers for their accomplishments during the time period.

Once the official part of the day was complete, Soldiers and family members headed home to change before returning to Hütier Kaserne to celebrate. There they gathered in a maintenance bay for a welcome home fest that lasted into the evening. The band Q2 provided live entertainment while people enjoyed hot food provided by MWR. Children met with Santa Claus, were treated to cotton candy, had their faces painted and enjoyed carnival rides. Adults tried their rodeo skills on a mechanical bull, an interactive skiing arcade game, and competed against each other in the Elastarun. It was a well-deserved thank you from the community for another mission accomplished.



SpC. Jordan Conner, 485th CSB, (center) sings with Jim and Ally Quinn, a band known as Q2, at the 16th CSG welcome home fest.



Photo by Susan Huseman

Season's Greetings

Argonner Elementary School Student Council secretary Ashley Kutac, 9, scoops popcorn Dec. 8. Money raised through Argonner Elementary School Parent Teacher Association Holiday Barnyard-Grams and Dec. 8's popcorn sales will be used to support Heifer International, a non-profit organization that buys livestock for people in impoverished nations.



Photo by Dennis Johnson

Cub Scout Den 49 sells Christmas trees at Wolfgang Shopping Center to raise money for activities.



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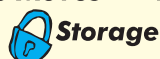
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Things to do ... Things to do

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. party

Celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday with a party Jan. 12 from 6-11 p.m. at the Kastel Klub on the Mainz-Kastel Storage Station. The event will feature free food, cake and drawings for prizes. Call mil 334-2903.

Friday night sports

Jump on Baumholder Outdoor Recreation's Friday Night Ski and Snowboard Shuttle to go sledding, ice skating, snowboarding or skiing at the Erbeskopf winter sports park. Cost is \$15. The shuttle departs at 6 p.m. and returns at midnight. Call civ (06783) 6-7182 or mil 485-7182.

Wolf howling night

The Klein Auheim Wildpark features its Wolf Howling Night Jan. 20 from 3-6 p.m. Join park ranger Dr. Marion Ebel for a walk through the animal sanctuary and a look at the wolves. A dog show will also be featured. Cost is €4 for children, €6 for adults.

Live at the Alte Oper

Frankfurt's Alte Oper features music legends Guillermo Rubalcaba Gonzales, Jose Maracaibo Castaneda, Reynaldo Creagh and Leo Vera — members of the **Buena Vista Social Club** — Jan. 2. Other upcoming concerts at the Alte Oper include the **Harlem Gospel Singers and Band** Jan. 5 and 7, **Funk and Soul Night** with members of the Motown session bands Jan. 13, the **Academy of St. Martin in the Fields** playing Kodaly, Brahms

and Mendelssohn Jan. 14, the **Festival Strings Lucerne** performing works by Britten and Bach Jan. 22, **Music of the Dance (Irish step dance)** Jan. 30 and the original London musical "**Abbafever**" Jan. 31. Call civ (069) 1340 400.

Adventures with USO

Rhein-Main Area USOs feature everything from **belly dancing classes** to **karate**, **Massage 101** to **Latin dance**. Upcoming trips include **Black Forest** Dec. 29, **New Year's in Paris** Dec. 30 to Jan. 1, **Monte Mare Water Park** Jan. 6, **Tropical Islands** Jan. 12, **Amsterdam** Jan. 13-14, **Weimar and Buchenwald** Jan. 20 and the **Riesling Route with Eric the Red** Jan. 27. Call or stop by the USOs in Hanau, Wiesbaden, Giessen or at the Frankfurt Airport for more information.

Get crafty at the Keepsake

Baumholder's Keepsake Arts and Crafts features classes in stained glass, quilting, sewing, knitting, bead making, cake decorating, scrapbook making and watercolor painting. Keepsake also features photo packages. Stop by Building 8895 on Wetzel Barracks or call civ (06783) 6-6687.

'Seussical, The Musical'

The Theatre Unlimited Performing Company presents "Seussical, The Musical," based on the works of Dr. Seuss, Saturdays and Sundays at 2 p.m. Jan. 20 to Feb. 4 at Frankfurt's English Theatre.

Call civ (069) 2423 1620 or email box-office@english-theatre.org.

Army photo contest

Visit www.armymwr.com for details and entries forms for the 2006 Army Photography Contest. This year's competition will feature people, place, object, military life and experimental categories. Entries should be submitted in digital format on a CD or DVD. Take the CD or DVD and a completed entry form to your local arts and crafts center or Community Recreation Office.

2007 Soldier Show

Soldier entertainers have until Dec. 31 to apply for an audition for the 2007 Army Soldier Show. Audio, video, lighting, costume and stage technicians are also needed. Active duty, National Guard and Reserve Component Soldiers are eligible to participate in the six-month tour of Army installations. The audition packet must include a 10-minute DVD or VHS tape showing your talent, a copy of your most recent PT test including height and weight, updated Enlisted Record Brief, entertainment resume, Department of the Army photo or similar in uniform, letter of intent for release from chain of command signed by company commander. Visit www.armyentertainment.net or send an email request to soldiershow@cfsc.army.mil for more information. (IMCOM Public Affairs)

MWR moments

USAG Baumholder Skiing, sledding and more

Go **skiing in Interlaken**, Switzerland, Jan. 5-7; **ice skating in Bitburg** Jan. 7 or 21; join the **Austria ski express** to Dorfgestein Jan. 12; visit the **Frankfurt Zoo** Jan. 13; go **sledding** Jan. 14; take part in a **turkey shoot** Jan. 14; go **skiing in Garmisch** Jan. 19-21; or in the **Black Forest** Jan. 27. Baumholder Outdoor Recreation also offers a **Paris express trip** Jan. 27. Stop by Building 8167 on Smith Barracks or call civ (06783) 6-7182 for details.

Rent the clubhouse

Looking for a place to celebrate your birthday or some other special occasion? Consider renting the Rolling Hills Golf Course clubhouse. It can be rented for small functions such as retirements or farewell parties for 45-50 people for \$50. The clubhouse is located in Building 8888 on Wetzel Barracks. Call civ (06783) 6-7299 or mil 485-7299 for details.

USAG Giessen Drama, auditions

Giessen's Keller Theatre features a presentation by the White Horse Theatre of Harold Pinter's "The Betrayal" Jan. 19-20, 26-27 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$12. The theater also holds auditions for the play, "Independence," Jan. 23 and 24 at 7 p.m. Needed are four women, backstage and technical assistance. Call civ (0641) 402-6515 or mil 343-6515 for more information.

Travel with Giessen Outdoor Recreation

Join Giessen Outdoor Recreation for trips to **Paris** Jan. 6, **Tropical Island Berlin** Jan. 12-15, **Garmisch** Jan. 12-15 or **skiing in Winterburg** Jan. 20. Stop by Building 58 on the Giessen Depot or call civ (0641) 402-8207 for more information.

USAG Hanau The Bottom Line

Hanau teens are invited to stop by the Bottom Line Teen Center at the Wolfgang Shopping Center to hang out with friends, get homework tutoring, enjoy snacks, arts and crafts and plenty more. The center is located in Building 546. Call civ (06181) 88-8040 for more information.

Hessen Bowl highlights

Stop by the Hessen Bowl at the Wolfgang Shopping Center to register to win seats at the Hessen Bowl's Super Bowl Party Feb. 4 from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. The Hessen Bowl also features a King of the Hill tournament Jan. 21, Feb. 18, March 18, April 29 and July 29. Compete for \$300 in prize money. Entry is \$40. Call the Hessen Bowl at civ (06181) 88-8534 or mil 322-8638 for details.

USAG Wiesbaden Stress reduction classes

Wiesbaden Fitness Center on Wiesbaden Army Airfield holds stress reduction classes every Friday from 11:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend — especially Soldiers returning from downrange. The class will offer breathing techniques, meditation and guided relaxation to help create a more enjoyable lifestyle. Call civ (0611) 705-5541 or mil 337-5541.

Spouses tour of Wiesbaden

Explore Wiesbaden with other spouses every Wednesday at 10 a.m. The Wiesbaden Spouses Orientation Tour meets at the American Arms Hotel. Sign up by calling Wiesbaden Army Community Service at civ (0611) 4080-234 or mil 335-5254. ACS is located in Building 7790 in Hainerberg Housing.



Visitors to Hanau's Wildpark in Klein Auheim can see native animals in a natural setting. See column above for details on "Howling Night."



Photos by Karl Weisel

Sports and leisure



Photos by Gene Knudsen

Hanau's Richard Nelson slams his Kaiserslautern opponent's face to the mat on the way to a third-place finish in the 160-pound weight class at the opening wrestling tournament of the season in Heidelberg. Photo right: Hanau's Logan Peter lifts his 135-pound Kaiserslautern opponent off the mat on the way to first place at the meet. Peter also claimed first place in the 135-pound weight class at the Dec. 9 meet in Wiesbaden.



Mat attack: Hanau Middle High School wrestling team grows into formidable force

By Dennis Johnson
U.S. Army Garrison Hessen
Public Affairs Office

The Hanau Middle High School wrestling team has come a long way since Coach David Hemmer took over three years ago. From a team of just five wrestlers he has built a squad of 27 competitors this year in a school of just 337 students. The Hanau squad includes four middle school and 23 high school students.

"Out of the 15 wrestlers, eight had never seen a wrestling match before," said Hemmer. "We only had 13 practices to get them competitive. We're different than schools like Ramstein that can have students for five years; we're so transient here."

In the first tournament of the season held in Heidelberg Dec. 2 the Hanau high school squad came in second in the seven-team competition beating

some Division I schools. The 15 high school wrestlers who participated won 36 of 53 matches with 27 won by pins.

Logan Peter and Gabe Williams placed first in their weight classes. Micah Williams and Derek Neville placed second; and Eddie Quintero, David Butler, Gerald Baeza, Richard Nelson and Josiah Rayls placed third in their weight classes.

The four-man middle school squad placed first with six wins and three losses. Schools from Heidelberg, Kaiserslautern, Baumholder, Giessen, Mannheim and Wiesbaden competed in the tournament.

For Hemmer and his four volunteer coaches high school sports are about more than competition and winning — they're about the student, they said.

"You run the program for the total betterment of the student," said Hemmer. "You concentrate on academics

and character. Once they are a wrestler they are no longer an academic or discipline problem. Teachers let me know which students are having problems, and if their grades go below a 'C' we use every method to help. We talk about it in practice."

Department of Defense Dependents Schools policy is that no athlete can compete with a grade point average below 2.0.

Wrestling takes more discipline than most sports, according to Hemmer. "It takes your own personal discipline."

On the Hanau team some weight classes have a number of competitors while other weight classes need wrestlers. Students can still join the team during the season and should contact the coach if they'd like to give the sport a try.

A wrestling tournament can be a test of endurance for everyone involved. "A tournament can go from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. It's probably the longest competition in DoDDS for students, coaches, parents and volunteers," said Hemmer.

The wrestlers will compete in seven tournaments against five to nine other teams before the Armed Forces Europe High School Wrestling Championship to be held in Wiesbaden on Feb. 16-17.

At the Dec. 9 tournament held at Wiesbaden the Hanau team placed fourth. At the Dec. 16 tournament held in Giessen there was no team score awarded but Quintero took first in the 112-pound-weight class and Peter was first in the 135-pound-weight class.

"I think competition is always good. Life is competition, but sportsmanship and character are what leave your legacy," said Hemmer.



Photo by Dennis Johnson

Coach David Hemmer (blue shirt) trains his Hanau Middle High School wrestlers during practice at the school.

Sports shorts

Unit-level basketball

Giessen's Miller Hall Fitness Center holds a unit-level Super Cup basketball tournament Jan. 13-15. Call mil 343-7201 or civ (0641) 402-7201 for details.

Jazz dance classes

Register now for the February beginner and level 1 jazz dance class at the Rolling Hills Athletic Club in Baumholder. The cost is \$40 for four sessions. The beginner class will be held Wednesdays from 6:30-8 p.m. and the level 1 class Thursdays from 6:15-7:45 p.m. Call civ (06783) 6-6156 or mil 485-6156.

Racquetball tourney

Hanau's Pioneer Fitness Center hosts a Martin Luther King Birthday Racquetball Tournament Jan. 18 at 4:30 p.m. Entrance is free. Call civ (06181) 88-8197 or mil 322-8197.

Dexheim aerobics

Dexheim Fitness Center offers aerobics classes every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. Cost is \$4 per session or 10 sessions for \$35. Call mil 334-5746.

Groundhog Day Run

Giessen's Sports and Fitness holds a 5-Kilometer Run/3-K Family Walk Jan. 27 on the Giessen Depot. Cost to run is \$20 including a T-shirt. Walkers enter for free.

Free aerobathon

Baumholder's Hall of Champions features a free aerobathon Jan. 27. Classes include spinning, yoga, toning, step and jazz. Register for a free 10-minute chair massage. Call civ (06783) 6-7093.

Wrestling championships

The U.S. Forces Europe Wrestling Championships will be held Jan. 6-7 in Stuttgart on Patch Barracks with weigh-ins from 8-9 a.m. and bouts starting at 10:30 a.m. Events are free and open to male and female U.S. ID cardholders. Call mil 430-5386 for details.

Youth basketball

Youths interested in playing Youth Services basketball or cheerleading are reminded that registration is in progress. Visit your local CLEOS or Youth Services center for more information.

Tae kwon do classes

Adult tae kwon do classes are offered every Wednesday and Friday at 6 p.m. at Hanau's Pioneer Fitness Center. Cost is \$45 per month. Call mil 322-8197 or civ (06181) 88-8197 to sign up.



At the movies Dec. 21 to Jan. 11

Baumholder, Wagon Wheel

- Dec. 22** — Santa Clause 3: The Escape Clause (G) 7 p.m.
Dec. 23 — Santa Clause 3: The Escape Clause (G) 4 p.m. Deck The Halls (PG) 7 p.m.
Dec. 24 — Man Of The Year (PG-13) 4 p.m.
Dec. 29 — The Grudge 2 (PG-13) 7 p.m.
Dec. 30 — Turistas (R) 7 p.m.
Dec. 31 — The Prestige (PG-13) 4 p.m.
Jan. 5 — Saw III (R) 7 p.m.
Jan. 6 — Blood Diamond (R) 7 p.m.
Jan. 7 — Santa Clause 3: The Escape Clause (G) 4 p.m.

Büdingen, Little

- Dec. 22** — Flyboys (PG-13) 7 p.m.
Dec. 23 — Jackass Number Two (R) 3 p.m.
Dec. 29 — School For Scoundrels (PG-13) 7 p.m.
Dec. 30 — Open Season (PG) 3 p.m.
Jan. 5 — Man Of The Year (PG-13) 7 p.m.
Jan. 6 — Santa Clause 3: The Escape Clause (G) 3 p.m.

Dexheim, Rhein

- Dec. 21** — Santa Claus 3 (G) 7 p.m.
Dec. 22 — Flyboys (PG-13) 7 p.m.
Dec. 23 — Turistas (R) 7 p.m.
Dec. 28 — Flicka (PG) 7 p.m.
Dec. 29 — Employee Of The Month (PG-13) 7 p.m.
Dec. 30 — Everyone's Hero (G) 7 p.m.
Jan. 4 — Texas Chainsaw Massacre: The Beginning (R) 7 p.m.
Jan. 5 — Charlotte's Web (G) 7 p.m.
Jan. 6 — The Pursuit Of Happyness (PG-13) 7 p.m.
Jan. 11 — Saw III (R) 7 p.m.

Giessen, Skyline

- Dec. 22** — Man Of The Year (PG-13) 7 p.m.
Dec. 23 — Deja Vu (PG-13) 7 p.m.
Dec. 24 — Santa Clause 3: The Escape Clause (G) 5 p.m.
Dec. 29 — Texas Chainsaw Massacre: The Beginning (R) 7 p.m.
Dec. 30 — Happy Feet (PG) 2 p.m. Stranger Than Fiction (PG-13) 7



Dakota Fanning and "Wilbur" spend quality time together in "Charlotte's Web."



Will and Jaden Smith star in "The Pursuit of Happyness."

- p.m.
Dec. 31 — The Grudge 2 (PG-13) 5 p.m.
Jan. 5 — Flicka (PG) 7 p.m.
Jan. 6 — Deck The Halls (PG) 7 p.m.
Jan. 7 — The Prestige (PG-13) 5 p.m.

Hanau, Evening Star

- Dec. 21** — Santa Clause 3: The Escape Clause (G) 7 p.m.
Dec. 22-23 — The Holiday (PG-13) 7 p.m. Blood Diamond (R) 9:30 p.m.
Dec. 25 — Man Of The Year (PG-13) 7 p.m.
Dec. 26 — The Departed (R) 7 p.m.
Dec. 27 — Flicka (PG) 7 p.m.
Dec. 28 — The Departed (R) 7 p.m.
Dec. 29-30 — Charlotte's Web (G) 7 p.m. The Pursuit Of Happyness (PG-13) 9:30 p.m.
Jan. 1 — The Grudge 2 (PG-13) 7 p.m.
Jan. 2 — Texas Chainsaw Massacre: The Beginning (R) 7 p.m.
Jan. 3 — The Prestige (PG-13) 7 p.m.
Jan. 4 — Texas Chainsaw Massacre: The Beginning (R) 7 p.m.
Jan. 5-6 — We Are Marshal (PG) 7 p.m. Eragon (PG) 9:30 p.m.
Jan. 7 — We Are Marshal (PG) 4 p.m. Eragon (PG) 7 p.m.
Jan. 8 — Saw III (R) 7 p.m.
Jan. 9 — Flags Of Our Fathers (R) 7 p.m.
Jan. 10 — Saw III (R) 7 p.m.
Jan. 11 — Flags Of Our Fathers (R) 7 p.m.

Wiesbaden, Taunus

- Dec. 21** — Santa Claus 3 (G) 4 p.m. Flicka (PG) 7 p.m.
Dec. 22 — Charlotte's Web (G) 4 and 7 p.m. Employee Of The Month (PG-13) 9:30 p.m.
Dec. 23 — Flicka (PG) 4 p.m. Charlotte's Web (G) 7 p.m. The Pursuit Of Happyness (PG-13) 9:30

- p.m.
Dec. 24 — Santa Clause 3: The Escape Clause (G) 4 p.m. Charlotte's Web (G) 7 p.m.
Dec. 25 — The Pursuit Of Happyness (PG-13) 7 p.m.
Dec. 26 — Man Of The Year (PG-13) 7 p.m.
Dec. 27 — Employee Of The Year (PG-13) 7 p.m.
Dec. 28 — Flicka (PG) 7 p.m.
Dec. 29 — Eragon (PG) 7 p.m. We Are Marshal (PG) 9:30 p.m.
Dec. 30 — Everyone's Hero (G) 4 p.m. Eragon (PG) 7 p.m. Texas Chainsaw Massacre: The Beginning (R) 9:30 p.m.
Dec. 31 — Everyone's Hero (G) 4 p.m. We Are Marshal (PG) 7 p.m.
Jan. 1 — Eragon (PG) 7 p.m.
Jan. 2 — Jet Li's Fearless (PG-13) 7 p.m.
Jan. 3 — Texas Chainsaw Massacre: The Beginning (R) 7 p.m.
Jan. 4 — Man Of The Year (PG-13) 7 p.m.
Jan. 5 — Night At The Museum (PG) 7 p.m. Texas Chainsaw Massacre: The Beginning (R) 9:30 p.m.
Jan. 6 — Santa Clause 3: The Escape Clause (G) 4 p.m. Night At The Museum (PG) 7 p.m. Saw III (R) 9:30 p.m.
Jan. 7 — Everyone's Hero (G) 4 p.m. Night At The Museum (PG) 7 p.m.
Jan. 8 — Night At The Museum (PG) 7 p.m.
Jan. 9 — Flags Of Our Fathers (R) 7 p.m.
Jan. 10-11 — Saw III (R) 7 p.m.

Movies and times subject to change by local theaters. For the most up-to-date schedule visit the garrison's website (see address below).

Movie plots

The Pursuit Of Happyness (PG-13)

— Chris Gardner (Will Smith) is a salesman and a single father, struggling to raise his 5-year-old son (Jaden Smith). When they are evicted from their apartment, Gardner finds himself alone with his son in San Francisco and no place to go. Forced to live in shelters, Chris refuses to let this dampen his spirits as he pursues his dream of security for himself and his son.

Charlotte's Web (G) — E.B. White's

"Charlotte's Web" is given another cinematic spin — this time featuring the actors and voices of Dakota Fanning, Julia Roberts, Oprah Winfrey, John Cleese and Andre Benjamin (Andre 3000).

Man Of The Year (PG-13) — Robin

Williams plays a Jon Stewart-like host of a late night talk show who runs for president only to see the stunt backfire when he actually wins due to a set of unusual circumstances. Laura Linney plays the head of a computer company who investigates those circumstances.

Blood Diamond (R) — Leonardo

DiCaprio plays a smuggler who specializes in the sale of "blood diamonds" — the precious stones used to finance rebellions, privateers and terrorists during Sierra Leone's horrific civil war in 1999. When the smuggler encounters a farmer whose son has disappeared into the army of child soldiers, the two men's fates become linked.

Deck The Halls (PG) — Danny DeVito

and Matthew Broderick are neighbors in a small New England town who clash when one decides to decorate his house for the holidays so brightly it can be seen from space.

Turistas (R) — After a terrifying bus

accident maroons six backpackers in a remote Brazilian beach town, they slowly discover the white sand beaches and lush jungles conceal a darker, unsettling secret.

Flyboys (PG-13) — This is the unfor-

gettable story of heroic Americans who volunteered for the French military and become fighter pilots before the United States entered World War I.

Employee Of The Month (PG-13) —

For workers at Super Club, the most coveted honor is the "Employee of the Month" award and having one's photo immortalized on the wall of fame in the staff lounge. Stars Dane Cook and Jessica Simpson.

Santa Clause 3: The Escape Clause

(G) — Tim Allen returns as Scott Calvin, alias Santa Clause, whose son Charlie is now living with him at the North Pole. Scott must keep control over Christmas when the evil Jack Frost tries to take the holiday over for his own.

Classified advertising

Accommodation

Don't feel like yard work/cutting grass? Beautiful Penthouse (165sqm) in Hochheim-10 min to all US installations in the Wiesbaden area. 3bed-rooms, 2 baths, large balconies, floor heating, AC, garage & parking space. Furnished kitchen w/top appliances. A 1980.- + util & deposit. First time occupancy. Available in January. Phone: 0163 214 0339

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large \$45 each; Italian hand decorated bowl (16" x 3 3/4 dm) \$14; Many DVDs (\$4 each) & VHS tapes (2\$ each) - can email complete video list & also pictures of items. Call: 0611 380 7651w or 0611- 205 9876h

Gorgeous! 2004 Bassett-Madrid: Queen Bed with 2 large Nightstands. Sale Price \$1200, Originally: \$ 1597. Location: Baumholder Area. For pictures and information call: 06787-971659 or Email: janette_Leifker@yahoo.com

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PARIS - Christmas Tour (Also Pre and Post Christmas Tour) - 1 or 2 Overnights, FIRST CLASS Hotel with Breakfast Buffet, Grand City Tour, Seine River Cruise & Illumination Tour, Depart 23 Dec (Christmas); 21 & 29 Dec (Pre & Post) from **\$189**

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BERLIN - New Year - 1 or 2 Overnights, in a 4-Star Hotel with Breakfast Buffet, New Year Champagne Celebration at Brandenburg Gate, Depart 29 & 30 Dec from **\$279**

PARIS - New Year 2007 - 1 or 2 Overnights, First Class Hotel with Breakfast Buffet, Grand City Tour, Seine River Cruise, Paris by Night Tour with Wine & Cheese & Champagne Celebration at Concorde Square, **Confirmed Departures** - Dec 29th & 30th from **\$239**

AMSTERDAM - New Year 2007 - 1 or 2 Overnights in a 4-Star Deluxe Hotel with Breakfast Buffet, Cable TV, Wireless Internet & more, City Tour, Canal Boat Ride and New Year's Eve Champagne Celebration, **Confirmed Departures** - Dec 29th & 30th from **\$219**

LONDON - New Year 2007 - 2 or 3 Overnights in a 4-Star Hotel with Breakfast, London City Tour and New Year's Champagne Celebration, Depart Dec 29th from **\$389**

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